



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Middle East Peace Talks in Washington Wind Down

Syria's al-'Allaf on Israeli Demands

JN1205172293 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1635 GMT
12 May 93

[Text] Washington, 12 May (SANA)—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, has said that Israeli demands—sometimes to upgrade the level of the talks, and at other times to have recourse to their so-called open diplomacy—reflect an unsound approach to the peace process.

Speaking to reporters prior to the next-to-last meeting in this current round of talks, which ends tomorrow, al-'Allaf asserted that if the Israeli side had a serious approach to the peace process, then the ongoing talks would produce results.

Al-'Allaf said the Israelis want many things to happen outside the context of the negotiations, instead of demonstrating a serious attitude during the 18 months of negotiations.

Al-'Allaf added: I believe that if there is a desire to establish peace, then it should materialize here and nowhere else.

List of 25 Deportees Published

TA1205153093 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 12 May
93 pp 1, 15

[Text] The Israeli authorities have handed over a list of 25 names of Marj al-Zuhur deportees to the Palestinian negotiating delegation in Washington.

The Israeli authorities declared that they had canceled the deportation order against these deportees in addition to the 101 deportees whom they had allowed to return previously. The new list consists of:

The West Bank

Adham Mahmud Muhammad Shallash

Amjad Amin 'Ali Sayf

Isma'il Ahmad Muhammad Raja

Bashir Sa'id Muhammad Samarah

Jum'a 'Abdallah Mas'ud Sa'ud

Jamal Damuni

Shahir Subhi 'Abd-al-Qadir Ahmad

Rayiq Sakib Ibrahim 'Umar

'Izz-al-Din Ahmad Muhammad Jamus

Mahmud Muhammad Ahmad Hindi

Munir Yasir Muhammad Abu-al-'Abd

Tariq Ahmad Muhammad Hamdan

Hamzah Muhammad Husayn Jabir

Khalil Sulayman Musa Rumanah

Hasan Husayn Muhammad Jabra

Hisam 'Abdallah Hanani

Riyad Hasan Khadir Abu-Safiyah

Mahir Muhammad 'Umar Abu-Kuwayk

The Gaza Strip

'Ali Hasan Sa'id Balbisi

'Umar Muhammad 'Umar 'Isa

Muhammad Zayid Rabbah Shuraytah

Akram 'Abd-al-Rahman Husayn Salamah

Jawad Hasan 'Ali Abu-Shamalah

Ahmad Rasmi 'Abd-al-'Aziz Badr

Khalid Salim Sulayman Abu-Yasir

'Abd-al-Shafi on Israeli Document

TA1205142493 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 12 May
93 pp 1, 15

[Excerpt] Washington— In an exclusive statement to AL-QUDS, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral talks, expressed his belief that the current round of negotiations will not produce any noteworthy progress. This is because of the great divergence between the Palestinian and Israeli viewpoints and because it is not feasible to achieve anything in the two days remaining until the conclusion of the ninth round.

The chief Palestinian negotiator stressed that the draft declaration of principles presented by Israel refuses to recognize full Palestinian geographical sovereignty over land during the transitional stage and excludes Jerusalem and settlements from the self-rule authority.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi noted that land is the basic issue without which it is not possible to reach any solution. The occupied land must be restored completely to its owners, as stipulated by Security Council Resolution 242. This means full withdrawal from all the occupied territories, dismantling the settlements, and restoring Arab and Palestinian sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem within context of a close linkage between the two stages of a solution.

The Palestinian delegation head said that even if the U.S. Administration were to present a compromise solution to bring about a convergence between the Israeli positions expressed in the draft declaration of principles

and the Palestinian positions, the Palestinian side will not accept less than its negotiating constants.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi emphasized that there could be no compromise solution on land nor the relinquishment of even one inch of Palestinian territory occupied in 1967. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi on Bridging 'Wide' Gap

JN1205170793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 May 93

[Interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, by Sa'id Mu'addi, in the "With the Events" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, good evening.

['Ashrawi] Good evening.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan: What point has the ninth round of negotiations reached, and what are the latest developments in the bilateral negotiations?

['Ashrawi] As you know, we have two Arab and Israeli working papers or projects concerning a draft agreement on principles. The gap between the two positions is still wide, and it will be difficult to bridge that gap anytime soon. However, serious attempts are under way to negotiate on these two working papers, but both sides' positions on substantive issues are still different.

[Mu'addi] Are there any points of agreement between the Palestinian and Israeli documents regarding the transitional phase?

['Ashrawi] There are some common denominators, but they remain general and formal because major differences emerge whenever we try to translate a general situation into practice or even specific issues.

[Mu'addi] Do you believe there will be a chance for a joint declaration of principles by the end of the ninth round of negotiations tomorrow?

['Ashrawi] We still have two sessions ahead, but it is difficult to see any chance of a quick move or result. Work is still going on but it will be difficult, in my view, to reach any agreement, a joint agreement, or a joint declaration by tomorrow.

[Mu'addi] What do you have on the agenda for the two working sessions today and tomorrow?

['Ashrawi] Discussion of the two projects will continue. We also will try to bring views closer together. The Israeli side is trying to change or empty the concept of the geographic entity of its meaning. If the Israeli side is serious about changing this position and translating that concept into reality, we may reach a rapprochement. We are still working on these essential points related to the nature of the Palestinian transitional self-government, to points of reference, to legislation, and to dealing with the issue of land as one

indivisible unit. Palestinian authority includes the land. We are also talking about issues pertaining to elections and international supervision thereof.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan, will the Palestinian delegation remain reduced in size until the end of the negotiations?

['Ashrawi] Today, the delegation will remain as it is. We should have real signs of Israel fulfilling the promises it made to the sponsor and the other sides. If Israel wants to prove its commitment to the process, then it should carry them out quickly and tangibly. Otherwise, the Palestinian protest will remain as it is.

[Mu'addi] What is the role of the peace sponsor, the United States, in bridging the gap between the two sides?

['Ashrawi] We hold extensive daily meetings, and yesterday we held two meetings to discuss the Palestinian project in detail and to present it to the American side in a convincing manner. This is intended to inform the United States of details of and justifications for our position and of linking it with the points of reference and official U.S. policy. In fact, this is what is taking place right now. The United States has proposals and is trying to find points of agreement between the two sides. Still, so far we have not been able to reach any points of agreement.

[Mu'addi] Have you discussed any date for convening a 10th round of negotiations?

['Ashrawi] We have not discussed such a date. We are still engaged in this round and are awaiting practical implementation of the Israeli commitments instead of thinking of the end of this round or the beginning of another round.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian side, thank you very much.

['Ashrawi] You are welcome.

Al-'Allaf Calls 12 May Talks 'Useless'

JN1205203693 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in 2000 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, has described discussions with the Israeli side on the 10th day of this round of talks as repetitious and useless because of the Israeli side's rejection of the principle of total withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967. He said that discussion of the issues of withdrawal and security continued, and that despite the seriousness and importance of the topics discussed, no progress was made.

Responding to a question, al-'Allaf added that serious discussion is good if it leads to results, but it will be regrettable if the discussion is meant only to waste time.

Regarding differences with the Israeli side over the issue of security, al-'Allaf said that as long as the Israeli side

does not accept the principles governing security guarantees and measures, there will be no possibility of an agreement.

Asked about the upcoming round of talks, al-'Allaf said: The convening of the next round is left to the competent authorities on each side. As usual, the Arab foreign ministers should meet to assess the results of this round, and they will undoubtedly make the appropriate decision. He also ruled out any possibility of achieving any progress on the last day of this round. It was agreed that the last meeting of this round would be brief.

U.S. Drafting Document of Principles

TA1205192193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 May 93

[Excerpts] U.S. officials are racing against time to draft a joint Israeli-Palestinian document of principles on an interim arrangement in the territories. All the sides are interested in some sort of achievement before the current round of talks end tomorrow. The United States is also making efforts to draft an overall declaration which will attest to the desires of all the sides for peace based on the rules of the Madrid conference and UN Resolutions 242 and 338. The actual details will be added to the document of principles at the next round of talks. Washington correspondent Ya'ir Stern reports:

[Begin recording] [Stern] Today's Washington meetings opened in a plenum between the Israeli delegation and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Palestinian attendance was again limited, with only three representatives. The meeting was merely formal, as called for by the rules of the Madrid conference, since the sides have nothing to discuss in a joint forum. Therefore, several minutes later the head of the Palestinian delegation got into his car and left the scene.

State Department officials are investing great efforts in trying to bridge the gaps between Israel and the Palestinians to reach a joint document of principles on the interim arrangement. These gaps are enormous. The Palestinians demand, among other things, that the autonomy council also run East Jerusalem. They call for a total settlement freeze and a phased Israeli Defense Force [IDF] withdrawal from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip during the term of the interim arrangements. Of course, Israel will not agree to that. The United States is trying to arrive at a wording of an overall declaration that will not go into the small print. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher used his meeting with the Moroccan foreign minister to make an optimistic declaration. [passage omitted]

There is also no progress in the Syrian track, and Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich said that he will use the next two days to prepare the agenda for the next round of talks:

[Rabinovich] I expect significant breakthroughs in the next two days. We will use the time mainly to prepare for a more fruitful period in the next round.

[Stern] Rabinovich also supports a summit between President al-Asad and Prime Minister Rabin as a move which could advance the process. Syrian delegate Muwaffaq al-'Allaf totally rejected that idea and demanded that Israel sign a deal in the conference room and that, of course, includes a withdrawal.

[Al-'Allaf, in English] I think if there is that desire to establish peace, it has first to be shown here.

[Stern] The bilateral talks between Israel and the Arabs are not yet over, and preparations for the multilaterals are already in gear. The arms control talks begin in Washington next week. Preparatory talks were held today. David Tivri, the head of Israel's delegation, came to the State Department with Brigadier General Quti Mor and military attache Giyora Rom.

The United States expects all the Arab governments to make a commitment in principle by 13 May to participate in the next round of talks in June so that there will be no need for ongoing negotiations and all sorts of gestures to get them resumed then. [end recording]

The latest proposal presented by Israel to Lebanon in the Washington talks said that Israel wants a peace treaty which contains security clauses to safeguard the northern border without the presence of Israeli soldiers on Lebanese soil. An accurate version of the proposal was leaked to the Lebanese daily AL-SAFIR, and Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli delegation, issued a protest yesterday. Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that in the wake of development, the Lebanese Government ordered the newspaper to be closed down for a week for harming national interests, but the owners might ignore the order. In response, Lebanon demands a firm Israeli commitment to fix a timetable for a withdrawal from the security zone.

U.S. Presents Joint Document

TA1305050193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] The United States is making efforts to bridge the gaps between Israel and the Palestinians, and last night it presented its draft version of a joint declaration of principles. The Americans wanted to present the document at a joint gathering of the Israeli and Palestinian delegations, but the Palestinian representatives boycotted the meeting.

Our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan reports that Israeli sources reacted to the U.S. document by saying that it gives rise to several serious questions. The two-page document contains 10 clauses and is entitled: The Joint Israeli-Palestinian Declaration. The representatives of the U.S. Administration are continuing their contacts with the Israeli and Palestinians representatives in an effort to formulate a document that will sum up the discussions so far.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 13 May broadcasts a similar report in which Arye Golan cites Yosi Gal, spokesman of the Israeli delegation, as commenting on

the Palestinians' absence from the meeting with the remark: "Once more, we express our regret that our Palestinian interlocutors did not honor those who invited them, the negotiations, or us with their presence."

[The report also carries a recorded passage in which Elyasim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with the Palestinians, comments on the U.S. document, saying: "After an initial reading of the document, we said we see serious issues that should be reviewed and examined. Naturally we will hold consultations among ourselves and will report to the political levels back home." Asked who benefits from the document, Rubinstein refuses to comment.]

Last night, it was reported that the prime minister conferred several times with new U.S. Ambassador William Brown and spoke on the telephone with Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

U.S. Document Detailed

TA1305063193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500
GMT 13 May 93

[Excerpts] The draft U.S. document presented last night to the Israelis and the Palestinians, aimed at bridging the gaps between the parties and at reaching a joint declaration of principles at the end of the current round of Washington talks, says: The Palestinian autonomy council will have executive and judiciary, not legislative, powers. The status of lands in the territories and the issue of sovereignty over them in the future will not be discussed in the current negotiations in Washington but only in the discussions on the permanent solution. The issues of Jerusalem and the settlements are not mentioned at all. Our correspondent Qeren Neuhach has the initial details of the U.S. draft document:

For the first time since the peace talks started in their current format, the U.S. Administration last night presented its own proposal in the negotiations room. Without being officially asked by any of the parties and without obtaining their agreement, the administration last night presented its own draft of the joint Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles. [passage omitted]

The first clause of the declaration of principles proposed by the Americans states that both parties, Israel and the Palestinians, are willing to negotiate an agreement that will be based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The second clause says that both parties agree to establish a linkage between the transitional and the permanent stages of the autonomy. The paper offers the Palestinian council in the territories the powers of an executive authority and further stipulates that the Palestinians will have their own judiciary. The U.S. document does not grant them legislative authorities, stating that legislation will be determined through negotiations with Israel. Legislation will, in fact, be subject to an Israeli veto.

The U.S. draft document completely ignores the issues of East Jerusalem and the settlements, which naturally

seriously displeases the Palestinians. The status of lands in the territories and the question of sovereignty will not be dealt with in the current round of negotiations on the interim arrangements. These issues will be raised only in the discussions on the permanent arrangement.

In general, it seems that the U.S. offer is not fully accepted by the Palestinians. It is important to note, however, that the U.S. draft document presented last night is not new to the Israeli representatives. Work on the U.S. proposal has been going on for several days, and the document was presented to Prime Minister Rabin in his meeting with the U.S. ambassador to Israel last night. In addition, Rabin discussed the issue on the phone with Secretary of State Warren Christopher last night.

The bottom line, therefore, is that the U.S. move was fully coordinated with Israel, and Israel was not surprised by the U.S. proposal.

U.S. Seeks Human Rights Moves

TA1305071093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500
GMT 13 May 93

[Excerpts] The United States has asked Israel to improve human rights in the territories and to ease some of the closure restrictions. This appeal was appended to the U.S. bridging proposal delivered to Jerusalem last night. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

[Passage omitted] U.S. Ambassador to Israel William Brown presented the U.S. bridging proposal to Prime Minister Rabin last night. Rabin also spoke with Secretary of State Warren Christopher on the phone. Along with presenting the bridging proposal, the United States also asked Israel to make gestures to the Palestinians in terms of human rights. Israel was asked to deal with Palestinian complaints about human rights violations in the territories and to release detainees and ease the closure restrictions, mainly by allowing entry from the territories to Jerusalem.

It may well be—and this is only a guess—that the Americans are trying to appease the Palestinians through confidence-building measures in the territories and thus get them to agree to issue a joint declaration of principles, based on one phrasing or another.

Israel received the impression that the Americans—mainly Secretary of State Christopher—are determined to reach an agreed version of the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles by tomorrow. If this does not work well, the Americans may present the alternative proposal of a document detailing points of agreement and disagreement instead of a joint declaration of stands.

Last night the United States provided the first hint of its active role in the peace process. So far, Israel can be pleased.

Palestinians Reject U.S. Document

NC1305101393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Tunis, 13 May (MENA)—MENA has learned that the Palestinian leadership has rejected a draft joint Israeli-Palestinian statement which the United States had prepared to be issued by the Palestinian and Israeli sides at the end of the ninth round of bilateral peace talks.

A Palestinian source has told MENA in Tunis that the Palestinian leadership met under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat and adopted the decision during an emergency meeting at dawn today. The Palestinian leadership made the decision after it came about that the draft statement cancels the issue of Jerusalem in the peace negotiations and fails to comply with Resolutions 242 and 338 as the point of reference of the negotiations. The statement also does not talk about occupation or withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories.

The Palestinian source said that the United States had requested a tripartite U.S.-Palestinian-Israeli meeting to submit this draft statement. But the Palestinian delegation asked to receive the draft before the meeting in order to study and assess it, particularly since the draft has been conveyed to the Israeli side during a telephone conversation between U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and during a meeting held between Rabin and the U.S. ambassador in Tel Aviv.

The Palestinian source added that the Americans refused to hand over the draft joint statement to the Palestinians at first but asked them to attend the tripartite meeting. The Palestinians refused to go to the meeting which was consequently limited to the United States and Israel. This finally forced the Americans to comply with the Palestinians' request and hand them a copy of draft statement.

The source explained that the draft statement prepared by the U.S. Administration adopts Israel's positions on the transitional period, autonomy, and most of the other points of the Israeli proposal. He said it showed clear bias to Israel.

The source said that the United States wanted this Israeli-Palestinian joint statement to be issued in order to give the impression that the ninth round of talks had made concrete progress.

Arab Parties Hold Coordination Meeting

JN1305141593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] The heads of the Syrian, Lebanese, Jordanian, and Palestinian delegations to the peace talks held a coordination meeting at the Palestinian delegation's place of residence in Washington last night. During that meeting, the officials reviewed the outcome of the current ninth round of talks. Following the meeting, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, stated that the heads of

the delegations stressed the unity of the Arab position and that the peace process is one indivisible whole.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi declared that during the meeting, the U.S. proposal calling for the continuation of the talks was not raised. He added: We have already given a negative response in principle to this proposal. This is because there has been no progress to justify such a proposal. As for specifying a date for resuming the negotiations, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: This is usually decided during coordination meetings among the foreign ministers of the states directly involved in the peace process. He indicated a meeting of this kind will be held soon. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi ruled out any possibility of an agreement being reached during the current round on a joint Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles.

In response to a question, the head of the Palestinian delegation said: It is not possible to talk about specific results being reached during the current round of talks. He added that the Palestinian side has become more convinced during this round that Israel does not want to abide by the point of reference of the peace process, which is UN Security Council Resolution 242. He said that Israel insists on being at odds with the entire world when it says that it is not an occupying state. However, he said, the entire world and the reference of peace, represented by Resolution 242, view it as an occupying state.

In response to a question regarding the U.S. proposal presented yesterday to the Palestinian and Israeli delegations asking them to issue a joint declaration, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: The Palestinian delegation is studying this proposal, and a response will be presented today.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi was asked why the Palestinian delegation failed to attend a tripartite Palestinian-U.S.-Israeli meeting called for by the Americans. He answered: We saw no logical justification for convening a meeting to receive the U.S. document. We insisted that the U.S. Administration send us this document, and this is what in fact happened.

The heads of the other Arab delegations denied that they had received any U.S. documents similar to the one presented to the Palestinian delegation.

Arabs To Decide on Date of New Round

TA1305143893 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 13 May 93 pp 1, 15

[By Rashid Hilal]

[Text] Washington—In an exclusive telephone interview with AL-QUDS, Dr. Nabil Qassis, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation, stressed that it will not be easy to reach agreement on a declaration of principles during the current round. Qassis said: The Israelis presented a draft and we presented one. Evidently there are differences in the drafts. In view of this, Qassis deemed it unlikely

that the existing gap between the two sides would be bridged, especially since today—Thursday—is the last day of the ninth round.

Qassis expressed his annoyance at talk over an upcoming round while the ninth round is still in session. He said: One should not talk about the possibility of convening another round when we are still in the ninth round. We came to this round in order to reach agreement on a declaration of principles.

Qassis hoped that talk about continuous rounds would stop. He emphasized that the date of the resumption of the talks will be decided by the Arab parties participating in the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Multilateral Talks on Refugees Continue in Oslo

TA1205113593 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 May 93
p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The discussions of the multilateral committee on refugee issues opened in Oslo yesterday without any problems. The Palestinian delegation arrived at the talks without the members of the Palestine National Council, as Israel had demanded. The Palestinians demanded that the first issue on the agenda be family reunification, but a compromise was eventually reached and the issue will be extensively discussed in this morning's session of the committee. The participants were briefed on the living conditions in the refugee camps in the territories.

In Jerusalem, it is expected that at the close of the current round of discussions it will be decided that the next meeting will be held in Tunis, after this is discussed over the next several weeks. Jerusalem attributes great importance to the fact that an Arab country will agree to host one of the peace talks forums.

Israeli Envoy on Progress

TA1205194993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 May 93

[Excerpts] The multilateral committee on Palestinian refugee issues ended its second day of talks in Oslo. The heads of the Israeli delegation expressed satisfaction from the progress made in the talks. The Palestinian demand to devote the activity of the conference entirely to the issue of family reunification was not accepted. Our correspondent Hayim Yavin reports from Oslo:

[Begin recording] [Yavin] [passage omitted] The third multilateral committee session dealing with the Palestinian refugees was opened by Norwegian Foreign Minister Jorgen Holst, who earnestly appealed to the 41 delegations in the large hall, asking for one thing only: In your discussions think about the refugee, think about the small Palestinian boy:

[Holst, in English] The measure of success is if we can brighten the future for a little child.

[Yavin, in English] Getting back to that Palestinian child, when last have you seen a Palestinian child?

[Holst, in English] It was not all that long ago. I have been to the Middle East, and I know there are children everywhere. I also have the same concern for children in Israel, that they shall be able to face a secure future.

[Yavin] The main bone of contention which threatened to torpedo the committee's discussions was the firm Arab demand for family reunification. The head of the Palestinian delegation, Dr. Ilyas Zurayq, a sociologist from Bethlehem who has been residing in Canada for many years, commented about this issue:

[Zurayq, in English] We would like to see, there are about 140,000 applicants pending the return to the occupied territories. Israel has done very little by issuing permits—that is, promising to issue permits to 5,000 people. This is minuscule. So far our figures show that maybe between five and seven percent have been allowed to return. This is unacceptable. If Israel allows family reunification for its own Jewish citizens, I think it's only right that the same procedure should be applied to the Palestinians.

[Yavin, in English] But this is something for the Washington talks, no?

[Zurayq, in English] No, I am sorry, this is a refugee committee. These issues are dealt with here. It doesn't mean they are not dealt with in Washington as well. The two are interrelated, and if in a refugee committee we can't discuss refugees, the reunification of families, what are we here for?

[Yavin] Israel is willing to discuss every issue, but it reiterates that the problem of family reunification should be discussed in the bilateral talks in Washington. The Oslo talks should deal with the continued mission of Frenchman Bernard (Beaujolais) and with improving the conditions of the refugees in the areas of education, employment, and their standard of living. Israel was pleased when the Palestinians accepted its argument:

[Yosef Hadas, head of the Israeli delegation] I am pleased, because today we managed to obtain a positive result in one of the most important and loaded issues in the multilateral arena. There was an attempt to corner us in this issue of family reunification and to impose on us various unacceptable criteria, at which point we said that the continued mission of the French envoy should take into consideration not only the Arab position—and especially the very well-known position of the Palestinians—but also Israel's position, as expressed by me here.

[Yavin] The multilateral talks recall the UN corridors. After all, the real and difficult decisions will be made in Jerusalem and in Tunis. However, perhaps improving the conditions of the residents of the territories will also improve the prospects of a compromise in the political

sphere. Otherwise we might say that the Oslo talks were nothing more than a sweet Scandinavian dream.

Arabs Object to Palestinian Bank During Rome Talks

TA1205154193 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic

12 May 93 p 3

[Excerpt] Amman—A Palestinian economic expert has said that some Arab parties objected to the proposal presented by the Palestinian delegation at the economic development committee meetings in Rome. The proposal provides for the establishment of a Palestinian bank in order to aid development in the occupied Arab territories, especially the private sector in different fields during the transitional stage.

Samir Halilah, the Palestinian economist and member of the Palestinian delegation at the meetings of the multilateral talks economic development committee, said that some Arab parties, whom he did not name, considered the Palestinian proposal "premature and not a regional project." Halilah added: The Palestinian side will present a detailed paper about this proposal at the committee's meetings slated to be held in Copenhagen in September and will endeavor to secure the agreement of the parties concerned for this project. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Official on Unfulfilled Human Rights 'Promises'

TA1205140993 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 12

May 93 p 1

[Text] Tunis—Jamil Hilal, head of the PLO Information Department, has stated that the promises made to the PLO before the start of the ninth round of negotiations pertain to human rights. The promises were:

- Reunification of Palestinian families in the occupied territories.
- Release of prisoners held in administrative detention without trial or charges.
- Lifting the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- Providing international aid to Palestinian institutions, including a contribution by the United States which is regarded as Israel's biggest supporter.

Hilal added: So far none of these promises have been fulfilled.

'Arafat Adviser 'Optimistic' on Peace Process

TA1305112193 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew

12 May 93 p 26

[Report on "exclusive" telephone interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif in Tunis by 'Uzi Mahanaymi on 8 May]

[Text] Despite a slightly pessimistic tone due to the lack of progress in the subcommittee on human rights in the

peace talks, Yasser 'Arafat's adviser Bassam Abu-Sharif was optimistic about the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians when I spoke to him last Saturday.

He said he hopes that by the end of this week, Israel and the Palestinians will sign a memorandum of understanding which will lead to Palestinian self-government in the occupied territories by the end of this year.

He noted that the PLO in Tunis believes that there will be "a Palestinian self-entity within three years." When I asked him whether he meant a Palestinian state, Abu-Sharif cautiously said: "Let us talk about a self-entity." He was careful not to talk explicitly about a "Palestinian state" because this might stir up turmoil in Israel which could sabotage the peace process.

"I am always optimistic," Abu-Sharif said. "Do you know why? Because all the parties involved in the peace issue have no choice but to deliver the goods. Peace is bigger than all of them together. They have no other choice. The Syrians made the situation clear: The Palestinians should be the first. Go with the Palestinians, and we will progress together with you, they said. Everything is working out just fine.

"Objectively speaking, progress is a regional necessity, a necessity of the Middle East. It is a U.S. interest. None of the sides can afford not to make progress in the process. I believe the Israeli Government is beginning to realize that it has no choice but to accept the UN resolutions.

"A significant step forward will be made by the end of the year. That is how we feel here, in Tunis. The transition period in the occupied territories will begin. There will be a Palestinian self-government, which means that rule will be handed over to a Palestinian administration which will replace the occupation in most vital areas. That will be an important stage leading to the end of the occupation.

"After this period of self-government, the talks will continue in a bid to end the status of occupied territories. This will unequivocally lead to national independence and to a confederation with Jordan. In my opinion, we will attain national independence within three years. The PLO is not a goal in itself. The PLO is merely a bridge to national independence.

"The Israeli Government must recognize that there will be no progress if the Fourth Geneva Convention (dealing with civil rights) is not implemented—namely, stopping the violence in the territories—and if it does not realize that Palestinian self-government means a government with full rights. I think the Israeli Government already understands this, however, and that is why progress has been made.

"The real breakthrough, which I hope will occur already this week, will be willingness on the part of the Israeli Government to exchange a memorandum of understanding with the Palestinians that focuses on the question of UN Resolutions 242 and 338. Furthermore, I hope to receive a clear definition of the self-government

the Palestinians will get at the end of the interim period and to secure a clear linkage between the interim period and the second and final stage that will lead to national independence."

Editorial Urges U.S. Action To Stop 'Crisis' in Talks

TA1205181993 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 12 May 93 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "What Will a Return to Deadlock Signify?"]

[Text] One week after the injection of a climate of optimism in Washington—indicating that the peace talks in different tracks were moving toward a breakthrough and that agreements would be reached by the end of the third week of talks in the ninth round—suddenly sharp disagreement arose in the Palestinian-Israeli track. The Palestinian delegation protested against the non-implementation of U.S. and Israeli promises made to persuade the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table.

Israel promised to speed up the return of Palestinians deported to Marj al-Zuhur in Lebanon. Israel also made promises on the issues of human rights and interim self-rule for the Palestinians. Israeli leaders had repeatedly stated that Israel would be generous toward the Palestinians if they decided to return to the negotiating table. The result of this generosity was an Israeli decision to repatriate another 25 deportees from an original 400, bearing in mind that Security Council Resolution 799 calls on Israel to immediately return all the 400 deportees. Moreover, Israeli practices against Palestinians in the occupied territories escalated during this period of negotiations, and the military siege imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip was tightened. As for the self-rule plan presented by Israel, the Palestinians found that it lacks the terms of reference of the talks, the two Security Council resolutions, and the letter of assurances presented by the U.S. Government to the Palestinians.

The core of the Palestinian-Israeli disagreement is how to link the transitional stage with the final settlement. The Palestinians are insisting on their stance that at the end of the interim stage Israel would have to withdraw from the occupied Palestinian territories in accordance with Security Council Resolution 242 and that the self-rule powers should cover all the occupied Palestinian territories, including Arab Jerusalem. As for Israel, it refuses to make any commitment to the final stage status or any geographic delineation of the self-rule authority.

Thus, the talks are again heading toward the same deadlock. No progress whatsoever has been achieved in the bilateral talks and the existing gaps are still preventing any agreement. Direct U.S. intervention is essential in order to surmount the crisis and calm tempers. The United States had undertaken to play an active and fair role before the resumption of the talks. Now there is a pressing need for the United States to intervene in order to get matters back on track. The United States and the world are aware that the key to real peace in the

region lies in Israel's commitment to withdraw fully from the occupied territories in return for a full peace. U.S. reluctance to play the role of "full partner" in the talks exposes the peace process to the danger whereby this rare opportunity to extricate the Middle East from the cycle of violence and conflict might be squandered. The situation does not stand procrastination and maneuvering. Peace-lovers are relying on the U.S. role to invigorate the negotiating process and exert efforts to extricate it from deadlock by turning the term "full partner" from a mere slogan to a tangible reality.

The U.S. Administration is required to deliver on the promises that it made before the resumption of the talks. This means that Washington must play the role of full partner and devote its role to supporting international legitimacy and faithful implementation—in letter and spirit—of the resolutions, foundations, and principles on which the peace process is based.

The Palestinian people are disappointed and frustrated because the peace process has stalled. What is happening now in Washington makes those who had doubted the benefit of the talks more convinced of the soundness of their opinions. Hence, the need for a serious and speedy U.S. move to contain the crisis and steer it in the right direction.

Peace Negotiations, Requirements for Success Viewed

JN1205191993 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 May 93

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: As part of the political conflict and confrontation with the enemy in the negotiating arena, the Palestinian negotiator everyday moves toward [words indistinct] his plan on a possible solution based on possible justice as stipulated by the resolutions of international legitimacy. On one occasion, the Palestinian negotiator withdraws from one of the negotiating committees. On another occasion, this negotiator suspends his participation in more than one committee. On a third occasion, the Palestinian negotiator reduces the size of his overall delegation to the peace process in a practical protest against the enemy's procrastinations and maneuvers, as well as against the U.S. noncommitment to its pledges.

To affirm this protest clearly, brother President leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] announces that the PLO decision to reduce the Palestinian delegation aims to secure symbolic Palestinian participation in the negotiations until they end, as a protest against the fact that they have thus far achieved nothing. Within the same context, brother Abu 'Ammar asserts that it is absolutely impossible to attain a real and durable peace without a Palestinian peace, and that there will be no security or peace unless the Palestinian people's legitimate rights are recognized.

This Palestinian stand, in its entirety and detail, once again affirms the PLO's political and militant credibility, whether pertaining to its viewpoint and assessment of

the negotiating process and the implications, dimensions, and objectives of the Palestinian participation on the one hand, or pertaining to the PLO's ability to enter this battle without fearing the enemy's traps and maneuvers, and also without having the least doubt about the Palestinian negotiator's ability to confront the enemy's plan regarding a solution and to defeat this plan, as long as it stays away from the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, on the other.

Yes, this is the gist of the Palestinian stand, along with its principled bases regarding the negotiations. Some parties inside and outside the Palestinian arena have tried to undermine the credibility of this stand without being aware of the dangers such attempts pose to the people's unity and militant performance.

Yes, this is the gist. We directly see, hear, and sense that the Palestinian stand in the negotiating arena can never retreat from its principles, particularly in each round when the political confrontation escalates and when it becomes necessary to decide on matters. Furthermore, the Palestinian stand can decisively affirm that it is absolutely impossible for a real and durable peace to exist without a Palestinian peace. This is not a threat but rather a very important and necessary affirmation of reality. It is useless to ignore, circumvent, and continue to obliterate these realities.

In conclusion, we address the United States, which is responsible for the success or failure of the negotiations. This is because the United States, in its capacity as a cosponsor of the settlement process and a basic partner in it, can—if it plays the role of an honest partner—force Israel into honoring the negotiations' bases and terms of reference, and can also save the credibility of the entire settlement process.

Only when the United States plays the role of an honest partner, rather than a role biased toward Israel—Israel, which is the cause of the whole problem—can there be talk about the possibility of promoting the peace negotiations toward achieving a just peace in the Middle East. Such peace must be a Palestinian peace.

Hawatimah Announces 'New Plan' in Case of Gaza Pullout

JN1205150293 Baghdad INA in English 1443 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 12, INA—The secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine Mr. Nayif Hawatimah announced a new plan to be implemented soon after the departure of the Israeli occupied forces from Gaza Strip.

In an interview with the Iraqi weekly ALIF BA' published today, Mr. Hawatimah said that as soon as the occupying forces leave Gaza we will hold democratic elections under world neutral supervision. Then a legislative council and a national alliance will be set up to administrate the strip, he added. Gaza then will continue its struggle until the enemy is obliged to leave the strip and the West Bank. Mr.

Hawatimah cast doubts on the Israeli intentions of withdrawing from Gaza and said that it appeared that the enemy was maneuvering when Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, said he will not leave Gaza.

Mr. Hawatimah said the intifadah has tired the occupied forces and pushed the Israeli generals to disclose their readiness to depart from Gaza, but, he said, "I would like to say that this has a lot of Israeli wickedness, because they talk about their readiness to withdraw but trying to create certain state causing a Palestinian- Palestinian clashes without actually fulfilling their withdrawal [no closing quotation mark as received].

Mr. Hawatimah said that the continuation of bilateral and multi-lateral talks based on the American plan aimed at keeping the Palestinian-Palestinian division and the Arab-Arab division because the U.S. Administration wants to deal with the Palestinian and the Arab situation as separate portions but not as a whole.

He said he believed that sanctions against Iraq would continue since the bilateral and multi-lateral talks are still going on.

'Arafat Holds Meeting With Cuban Official

LD1205191193 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, last evening received Ernesto Melendez Bachs, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the Cuban minister conveyed the solidarity greetings of Cuban President Fidel Castro to brother president Abu-'Ammar, and renewed Cuba's backing and supporting stance of the Palestinian people's struggle.

During the meeting, the recent political developments in the Middle East, the development of the peace process and the efforts exerted to push it forward, the recent developments in occupied Palestine, and the escalation of the operations of repression and violence exercised by the Israeli authorities against our Palestinian people that are inconsistent with all customs and international conventions were reviewed.

The meeting was attended by brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee; the Cuban ambassador to Tunisia; and Dr Sami Musallam, director of the brother president's office.

Former Moscow Envoy Appointed 'Arafat Adviser

JN1305091193 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 May 93 p 18

[Text] Amman—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has decided to appoint Nabil 'Amr, former Palestinian ambassador in Moscow, as his adviser and member of the higher committee in charge of supervising the negotiations.

It is worth noting that this committee consists of a limited number of PLO Executive Committee members and some PLO officials.

Algeria**'Terrorist Group' Kills 2 Gendarmes; Group of 16 Arrested***LD1305031593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
2200 GMT 12 May 93*

[Text] According to the Gendarmerie Command, a terrorist group killed two gendarmes in Ech Chlef Province at midday today. The same source added that the attack took place when a vehicle belonging to the National Gendarmerie was travelling between Talasa and Tazghout in Ech Chlef Province. It has also been learned from the National Gendarmerie Command that three terrorists were killed, 16 others were arrested, and three hunting guns and a quantity of bullets were recovered in the Provinces of Blida, Bouira, Boumerdes, and Tipaza. According to the same source, seven of the 16, who all have criminal records, were arrested in Blida; they are accused of forming a terrorist group as well as threatening citizens and stripping them of their property at Bougarra region.

Constantine Trial Postponed Because of Lawyers Absence*LD1205185993*

[Editorial Report] Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic at 1600 GMT on 12 May in a 3-minute report notes that the trial of the "Fax" group in Constantine is being postponed for the third time at the special court in the city. A correspondent reports on the proceedings of the session, noting that the trial of the Fax network group, known as the group of Mohamed Bachir Boulares, which started 9 May, has been postponed again because of the voluntary absence of the defense lawyers, and the defendants' emphasis on the presence of their lawyers. The prosecution has requested the court to apply the criminal law and pass punitive penalties on the appointed absent lawyers, he notes. After deliberation the council of the special court decided to discuss the issue of the defense body on 15 May, he adds.

Proceedings at Trial of Airport Bombers*LD1205153893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1200 GMT 12 May 93*

[Excerpt] The trial of those involved in the Boumedienne International Airport bombing continued today in the capital's special court. More details in this report from radio correspondent Mohcen Slimani:

[Slimani] The trial of those involved in the Houari Boumedienne Airport bombing entered a new phase. It would appear that the decision of the Algiers lawyers' trade union over a comprehensive boycott of special courts and ad hoc appointments has affected the course of the trial proceedings, as the special judicial council was this morning unusually late to resume session, following a long wait outside the courtroom.

On resuming the session, which was not attended by the defense—we noticed that the lawyers' space was vacant—the court summoned the defendant Boulasbaa Youcef, who is currently in the Mustapha Pacha Hospital, and his lawyer, maitre Salhi Salah, who was also absent from the session due to the comprehensive boycott of special courts.

The special court's presiding judge gave the floor to the general prosecutor who remarked on the unjustifiable absence of Boulasbaa's lawyers. Those remarks were formulated as a request to court to apply clause 24 of the amended decree on anti-terrorism and sabotage which allows the special judicial council to take punitive measures against absent lawyers. [passage omitted]

Military Court Passes Sentences on Terrorists*LD1205074293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
0600 GMT 12 May 93*

[Text] Ouargla military court issued its ruling in its session, which continued until the early hours yesterday, in the case of the terrorist group which tried to attack the center for (?prospection and control) in Ouargla on 15 September.

The court passed death sentences in absentia on three members of the group, the sentence of life imprisonment on two others and that of five years imprisonment on two other defendants. Another man who is also involved in the case was sentenced to three years imprisonment and received a fine of 10,000 dinars.

Egypt**People's Assembly Regrets Sudanese 'Mobilization' Plan***NC1205163693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 12
May 93*

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA)—The People's Assembly Arab Affairs Committee has expressed deep regret over the ruling Sudanese regime's false claims made by Ghazi Salah-al-Din, Sudanese minister of state at the presidency, in which he announced a plan for general mobilization in Sudan to counter developments relating to the dispute over the Egyptian Hala'ib border area. In a statement today, the Committee stressed that the goal behind escalating the situation is to cover up the Sudanese regime's failure to contain the acute internal crises that it will be unable to solve.

The statement said that the Egyptian Government and people led by President Hosni Mubarak will continue to support the fraternal Sudanese people and that Egypt will not raise arms in their face. It said that the Sudanese regime should realize the serious implications of these false claims, which will only harm the fraternal Sudanese people for whom we wish stability and unity on their land and overcoming their domestic problems.

Funds Appropriated To Reclaim Land in Hala'ib

NC1305091993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 May (MENA)—Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, has allocated five million Egyptian pounds for the reclamation of 1,000 feddans in Hala'ib to be distributed among the inhabitants of the Hala'ib-Shalatayn-Abu-Ramad triangle, at a rate of five feddans per family. In a statement to AL-AKHBAR published today, Engineer Muhammad Zayid, director general of the agricultural department at the al-Bahr al-Ahmar Governorate, added that a committee from the Ministry of Agriculture led by First Under Secretary Dr. Yasin 'Uthman has spent three days in the area to discuss the immediate implementation of the project.

Committee Urges Support for Sudanese 'Brothers'

NC1305143293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1312 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 May (MENA)—The Egyptian-Sudanese Solidarity Committee has said it believes the Nile valley's two nations will not stoop to a confrontation sought by the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime in Sudan.

In a statement today, the committee said that when President Husni Mubarak announced that no Egyptian soldier would take up arms against a Sudanese soldier, he affirmed that, under its wise leadership, Egypt is concerned about Sudanese and Egyptian blood. They should not allow "this conspiracy" to take place and should cling to the historical constants that preserved the two nations' relations.

The committee appealed to the honest Egyptian people, in particular asking them to enhance their solidarity with the struggle of their Sudanese brothers who are fighting "a battle to restore democracy and freedom with bravery and honor," as the committee put it.

Sudan's Allegations, 'Mobilization' Criticized

NC1305124593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0621 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 May (MENA)—AL-AHRAM, AL-AKHBAR, and AL-JUMHURIYAH editorials today refute the Sudanese regime's allegations that Egypt prevented oil tankers bound for Port Sudan from traversing the Suez Canal and its claims that it uncovered an Egyptian-backed plot to overthrow the Sudanese Government. The editorials also comment on the Sudanese regime's declaration of general mobilization to confront Egypt and the hysterical atmosphere surrounding the campaign against the Egyptian people and leadership.

AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' writes: Sudan's ruler 'Umar al-Bashir is again trying to prove that he is not a dunce in the school of political demagoguery and that he still intends to implement the Machiavellian rule that

states that when domestic conditions worsen, the ruler must divert the public's attention from them by provoking an external crisis, preferably one connected with national territory.

Nafi' adds: Conditions in Sudan have hit rock bottom. With every new deterioration, al-Bashir and his mentor [National Islamic Front leader Hasan] al-Turabi find no party but Egypt with which to provoke a crisis to divert attention from what their regime has done to the wretched Sudanese public.

AL-AHRAM's chief editor asserts that al-Bashir has found no excuse for the errors of his economic policy except the claim that the oil crunch in Sudan occurred because Egypt prevented oil tankers bound for Port Sudan from crossing the Suez Canal. He explained that the world knows the Suez Canal is open to every country in return for passage fees. Otherwise, he said, the canal would lose its strategic trade value.

Nafi' continues: When popular resentment mounted and anti-al-Bashir Sudanese forces moved, the dauntless leader alleged that he had uncovered an Egyptian-backed conspiracy to overthrow his regime. The world knows Egypt does not interfere in any Arab or foreign country's internal affairs.

Nafi' adds that when all these attempts failed to divert attention from the deteriorating conditions in Sudan, al-Bashir came up with his latest innovation by declaring a general mobilization in Sudan. He beat the war drums and had martial hymns sung to make the Sudanese people believe they were facing an Egyptian military aggression, which he would confront to liberate Sudanese territory from a new occupation.

AL-AHRAM's chief editor adds: Instead of declaring a general mobilization of the Armed Forces in his overburdened country, al-Bashir would have done better to divert the expense involved in this mobilization to provide a loaf of bread—currently priced 10 Sudanese pounds—for his people. He would have done better to try to emerge from the Arab and international isolation he imposed on his country by his reckless policies, his support for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, and his encouragement of terrorism and sabotage in Egypt and other neighboring countries.

AL-AKHBAR Chief Editor Jalal Duwaydar asserts that the allegations made by the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime against Egypt prove the regime is facing a serious, dangerous predicament and that popular resentment has reached a climax in view of the increasing hardship and famine in the country. He says the provocations of those who play with fire in Sudan will not faze Egypt, which, earnestly wishes to safeguard the fraternal relations between the two nations.

AL-AKHBAR's chief editor addresses Sudan's rulers: What you are doing will never provoke us into a battle that would harm the fraternal Sudanese people. President Husni Mubarak has repeatedly made this clear.

Duwaydar adds that the irresponsible acts of al-Turabi-al-Bashir's regime prove the regime is in a critical position and is surrounded by mounting popular resentment.

The writer emphasizes that hostility to Egypt is not the way to end the isolation, hardship, and ruin that the ruling regime has brought the fraternal Sudanese people.

Another AL-AKHBAR commentary notes that the declaration of general mobilization in Sudan is a threat that arouses ridicule not merely in Egypt, but also in the rest of the world. The paper says this issue is both sad and preposterous.

AL-AKHBAR voices confidence that if Egypt opens the border to the Sudanese Army, most of its members will throw down their weapons and seek asylum in Egypt.

The paper describes the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime's provocation of Egypt as childish maneuvers designed to divert the hungry Sudanese people from their domestic problems. It says 'Umar al-Bashir, as a military man, knows before any other that Hala'ib has always been Egyptian territory.

AL-AKHBAR regrets al-Bashir's attempts to give his Iranian masters the impression that he can frighten Egypt by declaring general mobilization, noting that al-Turabi-al-Bashir's anti-Egyptian acts reveal the Sudanese rulers' bizarre way of thinking and their inclination to be frivolous about serious issues.

The paper comments on warnings issued by international organizations on the disasters threatening the Sudanese people in the form of widespread disease, famine, and economic collapse, all resulting from the policy pursued by the government of al-Bashir and his comrade al-Turabi. It says this government limited itself to the pursuit of illusions and turned Sudanese territory into international camps for training all kinds of terrorists and exporting them to areas specified by the Iranian authorities.

AL-JUMHURIYAH's Chief Editor Mahfuz al-Ansari says in his paper's editorial today that Khartoum's crisis seeks an outlet via the well-known and classic solution in such circumstances—to escape from domestic problems that can't be solved by provoking a fictitious battle abroad around which the public can be mobilized, especially if the lieutenant general or field marshal [al-fariq aww al-muhib—the writer plays on al-Bashir's military rank of lieutenant general and compares it with Saddam Husayn's rank] chooses a battle connected with national territory.

Al-Ansari adds that al-Bashir sent 68 people to Hala'ib in civilian clothes. Afterward, they changed into military garb to provoke a crisis and speak of confrontation, weapons of mass destruction, and shoulder-borne Sam missiles.

AL-JUMHURIYAH's chief editor says he believes this play is not merely Sudanese, but indeed continues the

policy pursued by al-Bashir and his Iranian allies with the help of the middleman Dr. al-Turabi, the cunning Hasan.

Al-Ansari emphasizes that Mubarak-led Egypt seeks no hegemony or glory, because Mubarak knows that real leadership is not built on illusion, aggression, intimidation, or terrorism.

Minister Says Police Confrontation of Terrorism Continues

NC1305150193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1352 GMT 13 May 93

[Excerpt] Suez, 13 May (MENA)—Minister of Interior Hasan al-Alfi has affirmed that the police forces are continuing their efforts to confront the remnants of terrorism firmly and decisively within the context of legitimacy and law. He said any individual crime is the responsibility of its perpetrator and that punishment should not be generalized in order to win people's trust as one of the most important factors helping police fight terrorism.

At his meeting with police commanders and officers in Suez Security Directorate today, al-Alfi stressed the importance of investigating the public's complaints and their right to a dignified treatment at police stations. He appealed to the citizens to obtain numbers for the complaints they submit to the police stations before they leave.

Al-Alfi said that the next phase will witness modernization and development of police training methods, noting that confronting terrorism requires that training keep pace with the changing methods of crime. He said that the ministry guarantees social care for policemen and their families. [passage omitted]

Kamal 'Amir Appointed 3d Field Army Commander

NC1305143893 Cairo MAYU in Arabic 10 May 93 p 3

[Report by Samiyah Zayn-al-'Abidin from Suez]

[Text] Lieutenant General Salah Halabi, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, attended a ceremony during which command of the 3d Field Army was transferred from Staff Major General Ihab 'Alawi to Staff Major General Kamal 'Amir. The two commanders then reviewed token 3d Field Army units.

Staff Maj. Gen. Ihab 'Alawi was recently appointed chief of the Armed Forces' operations room.

The former and current commanders of the 3d Field Army delivered speeches in which they commended the 3d Field Army for being efficient and prepared. They also praised the officers' spirit of initiative and innovation and the self-discipline of all the Army personnel.

Finance Minister Delivers Budget Statement

NC1205205593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA)—Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz delivered a statement before the People's Assembly today on the general state budget for the fiscal year 1993-1994. He said total revenue amounts to 56.3303 billion pounds, compared with 53.3891 billion pounds during 1992-1993. Total expenditure amounts to 65.3135 billion pounds, compared with 62.5334 billion pounds during 1992-1993. The gross deficit amounts to 8.9832 billion pounds. After financing the gross deficit by foreign and local loans, the net deficit amounts to 1.3382 billion pounds, compared with 2.2986 billion pounds during 1992-1993.

The finance minister said total state and current revenue in the budget amounts to 49.2797 billion pounds. Some 4.43 billion is earmarked for investment and 2.6206 billion for capital finance. Financing with local and foreign loans amounts to 7.645 billion pounds.

The finance minister explained that wages in the 1993-1994 budget amount to 11.6 billion pounds, compared with 9.98 billion pounds during 1992-1993. Current expenditure amounts to 35.2629 billion pounds. Thus, total expenditure amounts to 46.8629 billion pounds.

He said 11.3 billion pounds was earmarked for investment, compared with 10 billion pounds during 1992-1993. A total of 7.1506 billion pounds has been earmarked for capital transfers.

Referring to the gross deficit and its sources of financing, the minister said the total of investments is 6.87 billion pounds. They will be financed by 5.082 billion pounds from savings, 1.7561 billion pounds from foreign and local loans and credits, and 31.9 million pounds from other sources. The total amount for financing transfers is 1.3382 billion pounds, including 775 million in foreign loans.

The finance minister said the general state budget has arranged the necessary financing for investments without resorting to the banking sector. The budget depends on intrinsic capabilities. Therefore, the investments have been financed by local sources, aid, and grants totalling 9.544 billion at the rate of approximately 84.5 percent, compared with 82.8 percent in the past year. Foreign loans' share of total investments has dropped from one year to another, reaching 15.5 percent in the budget, compared with 17.2 percent last year.

The minister explained that the budget aims to narrow the gap between revenue and general expenditure. State revenue will be increased annually without putting new burdens on those with low income and without increasing general expenditure. Expenditure will be controlled and the economic structure of some economic establishments will be reformed.

He said the budget includes allocations of 19.091 billion pounds for current and capital expenditure. This is a direct contribution from the state to augment social services and ease citizens' daily burden. These allocations include 3.641 billion pounds to provide subsidies for those who deserve them and enable those with low incomes to obtain essential goods at reasonable prices.

The minister went on to say that the general state budget for the fiscal year 1993-94 includes around 10.313 billion pounds as the state's contribution for covering the costs of providing the necessary educational, health, and cultural services. This figure includes 7.708 billion pounds for education services, including scientific research for solving the problems of the productive and service units that are necessary to integrate the educational process; 1.996 billion pounds for medical services in hospitals and health clinics to treat citizens; and 609 million pounds to render cultural and media services. He added that the state's share of the burden of social security services reaches around 5.137 billion pounds.

The finance minister stressed that the new budget provides the necessary financial allocations for strengthening the Armed Forces, providing them with the material resources to boost their capabilities, providing them with advanced equipment, and training the Armed Forces men in modern military arts.

He said the 1993-94 budget includes 2.1 billion pounds to provide the needs for operations and maintenance compared with 1.8 billion pounds in the 1992-93 budget, noting that this increase is necessitated by the requirements of financial and economic reform.

The new budget referred to public debt requirements, stressing that these debts' commitments will be fulfilled when they become due. Each [word indistinct] will share its burden of the installments and interest to avoid having future generations shoulder the accumulated burdens.

In the local public debt sector, the budget includes 11.7 billion pounds to pay the local interest due on the financing of the services departments, the interest due to the Central Bank, and also 1.791 billion pounds in installements for the local debt. The minister said: Regarding foreign public debt, the budget includes 4.85 billion to cover the interest on foreign debt and 2.81 billion pounds to cover the installments on these foreign debts.

He added that the budget also includes 2.8255 billion pounds to support and reform the funding structures of the economic organizations so that they can continue to serve the public at social prices. It also includes 1.5496 billion pounds to settle the remaining capital commitments for the state's administrative units, local administrative units, the services organizations, and the necessary new requirements for paying Egypt's share in international financial organizations and establishments.

In the sphere of taxes, the finance minister said the new budget estimates public taxes at 14,936,920,000 pounds.

This figure represents around 46.3 percent of the overall state revenue for 1992-94. [timeframe as received]

The statement added that the tax authority listed 1,693,013 new taxpayers in 1991-92 and around 1,581,033 new taxpayers in the first nine months of 1992-93. It said the authority also examined 2,558,858 files during 1991-92 and around 2,343,168 files during the first nine months of 1992-93.

The minister said the new 1993-94 budget estimates the income from customs fees at 6.07 billion pounds compared with 5.9323 billion in 1992-93, on the basis that the collection of customs fees will be in line with the real value of imports. The sales tax is estimated to be around 8 billion pounds.

The statement said the surplus that will accrue in the general budget from the economic authorities in the new fiscal year is estimated at about 8.0806 billion pounds. This includes 4.7533 billion pounds of surplus from the General Petroleum Authority; 3.091 billion pounds from the Suez Canal Authority; and the remainder from the other economic authorities.

Mauritania

President Receives Message From 'Arafat on Peace Process

LD1305084093 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic
2030 GMT 12 May 93

[Excerpts] The president this afternoon received Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee and personal envoy of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

In a statement to our colleague Ahmed Mahmoud after the meeting, the Palestinian envoy said that he handed the president a letter from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat concerning the latest developments on the Palestine issue and the peace process. [passage omitted]

Spokesman for Abuja Talks on Roots of Conflict

EA1205210493 Khartoum SUNA in English 1600 GMT
12 May 93

[Text] Abuja, 12th May (SUNA)—Spokesman of the government to the peace talks Dr 'Ali al-Hajj [Muhammad] has said that the second session of peace talks revealed that the issue of distribution of power and wealth was the essence of the conflict, but not the issue of the relation between the religion and state, as some circles used to portray it. In a press statement following a session, Dr al-Hajj said that the two sides discussed the issue of petroleum exploration, explaining that the government delegation's view was that oil exploration is the duty of the central government while [Colonel John] Garang's faction considered that it must be a power of the state.

He noted that the government's delegation asserted that ownership of all the natural resources shall be a common right for all the Sudanese people, adding that this is the situation all over the world, including Nigeria.

Dr al-Hajj underlined that an erroneous understanding was prevalent within the other party that missionary activity is confined to Christian missions only, adding that considering missionary activity as a jurisdiction of the state contravenes the doctrine to freedom of religion which is an essential demand of Garang's group.

He said the call of Garang's group for authorizing each state to decide its own missionary policies arouses suspicion of the movement's intention to prevent the Muslims in the South from practising freedom of worship and religion.

According to 'Ali al-Hajj, the controversial issues which were not resolved were referred to the committee of the delegations' chairmen for more discussion, saying that the issue of educational planning was settled.

He asserted that religion has never been a cause of the conflict in southern Sudan.

Meanwhile, during an interview by the Nigerian radio, Dr al-Hajj said that John Garang is still the main obstacle on the peace way, wondering why Garang leaves for the U.S. At a time witnessing the two parties holding peace talks.

He attributed the current lack of food and security in the South to the clashes between the outlaws' factions. The outlaws' movement is alone responsible for aggravating the sufferings of the citizens in the south intentionally, he said, adding that the outlaws think that they can deceive the whole world when they say that the government is the source of miseries of the South.

Dr al-Hajj has underscored the paramount role of the Nigerian Government towards resolution of the southern Sudan question. He also affirmed the government's keenness to achieve a peaceful solution to the problem.

Amendments to Municipal Election Law Announced

LD1305083693 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic
2030 GMT 12 May 93

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers convened today under the chairmanship of President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. The Council studied and endorsed two bills: a bill on the abolition and replacement of some of the stipulations of Law No. 28977, issued on 20 October 1987 [words indistinct]. The bill, which is being issued amid prospects of restructuring municipal councils, aims at harmonizing the bases for the election and the work of these councils within the new constitutional framework, and introducing improvements deemed necessary as a result of experiences in that sphere gained over the past few years.

The new bill includes the following: Reduction of the voting age from 21 years to 18 years; reduction of eligibility to be nominated in elections from 27 years to 25 years; participation of political parties in municipal elections; extension of scheduled deadlines for revising electoral lists. In addition to the aforementioned, the bill includes arrangements to facilitate the avoidance of obstructions in the activities of municipal councils. [passage omitted: changes on Senate elections—no specific details, Ould Taya briefed the Council on his activities; foreign minister briefed the Council on international developments; other ministers briefed the Council]

Sudan

Further Reportage on Government, SPLM Abuja Talks

Negotiations Said 'Moving Slowly'

EA0805114093 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 8 May 93

[Excerpt] Abuja, 8 May (SUNA)—[passage omitted] The Nigerian mediation team announced that Nigerian Vice-President Augustus Aikhomu will address Saturday morning's session of the peace talks. The announcement was explained by observers here as an attempt by Nigeria to push forward the negotiations and to urge the two sides to make more compromises for the sake of peace.

Spokesman of the government delegation Dr 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad said in a press statement that the session will continue discussion on a number of points. Asked by reporters on the slowness of the talks, Dr. al-Hajj Muhammad replied that the slow pace is natural in such negotiations and it reflects seriousness to discuss matters thoroughly.

On the other hand, Garang group's spokesman, Nhial Deng, said the plenary meeting will continue sessions to discuss the disputed points. He agreed that the negotiations are moving slowly, saying that "we want a successful conclusion" for the talks.

Religion Not Cause of War

EA1105211993 Khartoum SUNA in French 1620 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Abuja, 11 May (SUNA)—Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, spokesman of the government delegation at the peace negotiations with the rebels in Abuja, has said the issue of the relationship between state and religion is not the main cause of the conflict in southern Sudan. Certain foreign circles were trying to insert this issue into the causes of the conflict and to present it as the pivot of the dispute. The problem of the south had started before independence and the current war, before

shari'ah was implemented. Islamic laws were not, therefore, a cause of the conflict, Dr. Muhammad said. Secularism was exotic to Africa and was incapable of solving problems, he said.

He added that one must sit at the negotiation table to discuss issues which are really at the root of the problem, adding that religion was not the cause of the war in the south.

The government adopted federalism to solve minority problems and to give more power to states, He added.

Dr. Muhammad said in conclusion that the fact that the two sides were now resorting to negotiations without mediation was an advanced step which would restore mutual confidence and help reach a fair and permanent solution.

Peace Conference Continues

AB1205120593 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1030 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Negotiations continue today in Abuja of the Sudanese peace talks. The peace conference was yesterday presented with a report on education planning prepared by the Committee of Elders. The conference agreed to pass all outstanding issues to the committee, which is made up of the leaders of the two delegations. The conference is expected to receive another report from the committee at today's session.

Garang on SPLM Stance, U.S. Ties

PM1305084593 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 10-16 May 93 pp 35-40

["Part II" of interview with Colonel John Garang, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, by 'Afaf Zayn in Nairobi; date not given; Part I published in 7 May DAILY REPORT]

[Excerpts] [Zayn] Some time ago you suspended your past call for setting up safe zones in southern Sudan under UN and OAU supervision. You said that you would raise the idea again if the peace talks with the Sudanese Government fail and the cease-fire collapses. Will the safe zones in southern Sudan be a prelude to raising the right to self-determination option? And will the establishment of safe zones lead to foreign intervention in Sudan to exert pressure toward toppling the present regime in Khartoum?

[Garang] Yes, I would raise that idea again if the peace talks fail and the cease-fire collapses. This measure is purely humanitarian in nature and not very urgent [as published]. Millions of southerners—Muslims and Christians—are exposed to death by starvation because of the war. And I cannot accept that this disaster is taking place before my eyes while we negotiate with others. This is because the new Sudan, whose dream I and those suffering people share, will be empty if they are killed by starvation and disease as a result of the

fighting. The fate of the regime in Khartoum is not my concern. And I do not believe in change in Sudan through foreign military intervention. Safe zones are a humanitarian protective measure, and there is no need of foreign forces to set up these zones. The matter will take place after the present Sudanese Government's agreement with the United Nations and through an agreement among all the parties concerned. The entry of foreign forces into Sudan, especially into the south, is impossible.

[Zayn] Would the safe zones mean providing objective justification for military intervention in Sudan? That might sound unlikely to you, but the call for safe zones could be used as an excuse to topple the regime. How can the regime in Khartoum continue while there are foreign forces in the south organizing life there?

[Garang] If we achieve peace, Sudan as a whole will become safe. There are safe zones in other states, but they have not led to the toppling of their regimes. I am not at all concerned with the Sudanese regime's relationship with the outside world or what it is hatching for it. That is my last concern. And it is impossible to conduct an international or foreign military landing in Sudan. The situation in Sudan is very different from conditions in Somalia.

[Zayn] What would happen if Khartoum refuses to agree to establish safe zones after the Security Council's adoption of a resolution stipulating this?

[Garang] The best scenario is to achieve a just peace and neutralize those in the safe zones until this peace is achieved. If Khartoum refuses to set up the safe zones as a temporary measure, the international community is responsible for taking a decision it deems suitable to protect people's lives.

[Zayn] Do you believe that there is a U.S. policy for Sudan in particular, or is Washington's policy linked to its relations with Egypt and other states?

[Garang] States are like individuals—they have their own interests. And I as a Sudanese say that my country's interests come first. The major states' policies toward the smaller states proceed from mutual interests. The Sudanese People's Liberation Movement's [SPLM] policy is based on establishing cordial relations with all countries, including the United States.

[Zayn] In a striking development, the U.S. Administration issued statements late in March in which it said that the fighting among SPLM factions was posing a threat to the lives of thousands of citizens in southern Sudan. The statements went even further to raise questions about the credibility of the SPLM's presentation of itself as the sole legitimate representative of millions of southerners. And in an exciting development Washington hinted that the Sudanese Regular Army could move into the south to disengage the warring factions.

[Garang] In principle, I do not agree with the U.S. Administration that the infighting among SPLM factions is hampering relief operations. The SPLM, which I lead, is in control of the liberated areas, which include Jibal al-Nubah, Bahr El Ghazal Province, west Equatoria, east Equatoria, right as far as Burr. Security is established in these areas and nothing hampers relief operations. I control 90 percent of the liberated areas in the south, and I have stressed to international organizations my willingness to cooperate with them. The starving there are my children, kinfolk, and brothers. The al-Nasir wing controls 10 percent of the liberated areas. Without Khartoum's support and arms this wing is worthless. [passage omitted]

[Zayn] Do you think that your past leftist political experience could prevent the development of the relationship with the U.S. Administration?

[Garang] I hope not. Human experiences are subject to constant change and are influenced by international and regional changes, which increased astonishingly at the end of the eighties. [passage omitted]

[Zayn] You met with Sudanese Planning Minister Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj in Entebbe (Uganda) in February, a few days after his return from Washington, where he testified before Congress. It was decided during your meeting with him that an SPLM delegation go to Abuja to resume the fourth round of negotiations with the Sudanese Government. A leader of the Democratic National Grouping opposed to the Al-Bashir regime told me on the eve of the Nairobi declaration 17 April that "the grouping fears the possibility of reconciliation between you and al-Bashir's regime," which is why it was decided that the grouping settle the matter and agree to grant you assurances. These assurances were stipulated in the Nairobi declaration so that you would not go to the second Abuja negotiations and negotiate with the regime. Do you believe that the Sudanese opposition's fears were justified?

[Garang] I said in the opening session of the Nairobi meeting that the SPLM has fought and is fighting for the unity of a new secular Sudan, and that nothing will force me to change my position. And whatever is said about the pressures to which the SPLM is exposed, I will not accept anything that is not in line with these demands, otherwise let the war continue. I will not accept anything less than the Sudanese Government's agreement to respect religious and racial pluralism and human rights in accordance with international conventions and treaties. All that is being said about the possibility of reconciliation between me and the Sudanese Government is merely idle talk, unless we both accept Sudanese citizens' right to exercise their religious and racial pluralism and share resources, power, and responsibilities in a unified homeland. This has been my position since 1983. [passage omitted]

[Zayn] During your meeting with Minister al-Hajj in Entebbe you both decided that the second Abuja negotiations should be bilateral between an SPLM delegation and a Sudanese Government delegation. And in return for your abandonment of your allies in the Democratic National Grouping, whose participation in the negotiation process you demanded in the past, Khartoum abandoned its demand for the inclusion of the delegation of the al-Nasir wing, which broke away from you, in the Abuja negotiations. How do you justify this behavior on your part?

[Garang] I have not dropped my demand for my allies to participate in the negotiation process. During the first Abuja negotiations held at the end of April 1992 we told the Sudanese Government that the al-Nasir wing, which broke away from the SPLM, had begun to strengthen its alliance with Khartoum, hence we cannot agree to the al-Nasir wing's inclusion in the negotiation process on the basis that it represents a tendency in the SPLM. This proceeds from the axiom that it is the parties which carry arms and fight that are entitled to negotiate. That is us: The predominant tendency in the SPLM and the Sudanese Government. And we discovered for the first time that we were exposed to many pressures to agree to the al-Nasir wing's participation as a party in the negotiation process in the first Abuja negotiations.

[Zayn] Who exerted that pressure on you?

[Garang] There were national and media pressures. And in this context the Nigerian president sent me a private message, saying that Khartoum set the al-Nasir wing's participation in the talks as a condition for its participation in the first Abuja negotiations, otherwise the Sudanese Government would not participate in the negotiations. President Babangida advised me to agree to al-Nasir wing's participation and to seize the opportunity while they are in Abuja to reveal to them that they had sided and allied themselves with Khartoum. And I was exposed to many international pressures and to pressure from a number of our friends. And out of our desire to make the negotiations a success we agreed to the al-Nasir wing's participation. [passage omitted]

Hala'ib Triangle Controversy Continues; Commentary

'Bombing Case' Tried

*EA0805065093 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT
7 May 93*

[Text] Khartoum, 7 May (SUNA)—The accused in the bombing case which was a part of foiled attempt for invading the Sudan will be presented to an open civil court, a reliable security source told AL-INQADH AL-WATANI daily published on Thursday [6 May]. The accused would be availed the chance to defend themselves and local and international (?media reporters) will be allowed to attend the trial sessions, the source added.

The source revealed that the trial will start following the completion of the investigations, adding that the procedures of the trial will disclose important facts about the conspiracies being woven against the Sudan.

The source said that limited arrests carried out amid the dissolved parties' elements had disclosed their involvement in the attempts of instigating and mobilising the internal front to cooperate with the foiled invasion attempt elements, explaining that the arrests included some elements of the dissolved Ummah and democratic unionist parties. He further said that some elements of those dissolved parties were released immediately following investigations.

Arbitration Sought

*EA1105193493 Khartoum SUNA in English 1652 GMT
11 May 93*

[Text] Khartoum, 11 May (SUNA)—First Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry 'Umar Baridu has announced the Sudan would resort to a third side to solve Hala'ib problem if the peaceful solution hindered, explaining that the third side is mediation tribunal and then will transfer the issue to the International Court in accordance with the international documents the call to solve conflicts peacefully. [sentence as received]

He expressed regret for the Egyptian practical escalation of the situation in Hala'ib, while the Sudan is concerned with solving the question peacefully. He said that the Sudanese Government had adopted a civilized method against the Egyptian escalation, expressing hope that Egypt would respond towards a peaceful solution to the problem in implementation of the agreement concluded by the two countries last October.

Baridu, speaking at the regular forum of the Foreign Ministry here Tuesday [11 May], affirmed that the Egyptian Government did not commit to the said agreement by assembling its forces in the area, saying that the Egyptian escalation had coincided with the recent conspiracy and the current government's efforts to realize peace all over the Sudan.

Baridu has meanwhile affirmed that the government has been exerting efforts to reach a permanent and peaceful solution to the southern issue, indicating to the current negotiations in Nairobi and Abuja. He explained that the government's programme is the solution of internal and external conflicts through peaceful ways. He said that the government adheres to the policy of open door with all factions of the rebellion movement to conduct a serious dialogue to (?reach) a peaceful solution to the southern problem, adding that we hope that the current negotiations with one rebellion's factions would produce an acceptable solution for all sides.

RCC Chairman Speaks With Arab Leaders*EA1105202093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 May 93*

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, today held telephone conversations with King Husayn of Jordan, President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria, Yemeni President Ali Abdallah Salih, and Col. Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi, during which he briefed them on latest developments affecting the Hala'ib area and the Egyptian provocations against the Sudan. He also discussed with the Arab leaders relations between Sudan and their states and ways of developing and strengthening them. [passage omitted]

Further on Volunteer Recruitment*AB1205131693 Paris AFP in English 1627 GMT 11 May 93*

[Text] Khartoum, May 11 (AFP)—A Sudanese Islamic organisation plans to recruit volunteers to defend Hala'ib, an oil-rich Red Sea territory over which Khartoum is engaged in an increasingly heated propaganda war with Egypt. Press reports here said Tuesday that the "operations room" of the People's Organisation for Defending the Faith and the Nation had decided at its first meeting Monday (10 May) to start the recruiting.

The so-called operations room organising committee was also sending a memorandum of support to junta leader General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir with copies to the United Nations, Arab League and Organisation of African Unity.

Officials said Sudan was entitled to deploy troops "as it liked" across its territory and would take no notice of an alleged Egyptian warning not to deploy soldiers north of Port Sudan, 300 kilometres (190 miles) south of the disputed territory. "We have rejected this demand," the first Foreign Ministry undersecretary, 'Umar Baridou said Tuesday.

Ghazi Salah al-Din, minister of state in the president's office, said that a forthcoming trial of nine Sudanese recently arrested on charges of plotting to assassinate officials and destroy strategic installations, "will also be a trial for the Egyptian regime." Sudan has implicated Egypt in the coup.

"The next battle (between Egypt and Sudan) will be between virtue and vice and will go beyond the question of Hala'ib," Salah al-Din said according to the daily AL-ENGHAZ AL-WATANI. He declared that his country would "back the Islamic project in Egypt," meaning the establishment of an Islamic state in Egypt, where authorities are cracking down hard on a wave of Muslim fundamentalist agitation.

Ummah Party Denounces Khartoum Stand*NC1205184693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1756 GMT 12 May 93*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 May (MENA)—The Sudanese Ummah Party has strongly denounced the conduct of the government of the Islamic National Front in Sudan and its approach to the dispute with Egypt over the Hala'ib triangle.

In a statement today, the Ummah Party said the Khartoum government's recent demagogic attitude toward Egypt aims primarily to divert the Sudanese people's attention from the tragedy they are experiencing because of the Sudanese Government's political, economic, and military failure. This policy has led to Sudan's regional and international isolation.

The statement said the recent media campaign launched by the Sudanese Government against Egypt aims to legalize its sheltering of extremists and terrorists in Sudan and its interventions and threats to the security of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the Horn of Africa. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister: Egypt Lifts Siege*EA1205213393 Khartoum SUNA in French 1605 GMT 12 May 93*

[Text] 12 May (SUNA) [dateline as received]—Relative peace prevails in Hala'ib following Egyptian threats and escalating tension, Interior Minister Brigadier 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn has declared. He told AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH that the Egyptian forces had lifted the siege imposed on the Sudanese region of Hala'ib following contacts with the commander of the Hala'ib barracks and the commander of the region's Armed Forces. It is worth noting that the interior minister read out a communique on 12 May on Egypt's recent threats regarding the Hala'ib region to the Transitional National Assembly.

Al-Bashir, Moroccan King Talk*EA1205212193 Khartoum SUNA in French 1608 GMT 12 May 93*

[Text] Khartoum, 12th May (SUNA)—The Revolution Command Council chairman, General al-Bashir, had a telephone conversation on 12 May with Moroccan King Hassan II, with a view to exchanging views on the [word indistinct] of the clearing of the Arab atmosphere, notably on the efforts the Jordanian king is making in that regard.

It is worth recalling that Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Abu-Salih, delivered King Hassan a message in the same context from Gen. al-Bashir during his recent visit to Morocco.

Sudanese Troops Won't Fire First

*AB1305103093 Dakar PANA in English 1331 GMT
12 May 93*

[Text] Khartoum, 12 May (SUNA/PANA)—Sudan will not open fire on Egyptian forces first following the two countries rival claims to Hala'ib area, spokesman of the country's Armed Forces, Gen. Muhammad 'Abdallah Uwaydah, has said.

In a press statement, the general said Sudanese forces would, however, protect their country's territory against attack. Gen. Uwaydah, who is also chairman of the Security and Defence Committee at Sudan's Transitional National Defence Committee, said Sudanese forces were in high spirits.

The controversy over the Hala'ib area on the Red Sea has intensified as both Egypt and Sudan reassert their claims to the territory.

Mubarak Following CIA 'Scenario'

*EA1105194693 Khartoum SUNA in English 1105 GMT
11 May 93*

[Text] Khartoum, 11 May (SUNA)—AL-INQADH AL-WATANI daily newspaper Tuesday [11 May] published an analytic essay written by 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmadun under the title "A New Scenario Aims at Destroying the Sudan and Egypt." The writer said: I did not join the group who predicted the failure of the Egyptian president's visit to America because a relationship between a great state and a president of a poor country from the Third World who obeys and executes all instructions even they ordered to assassinate the prayers in the mosques or to imprison thousands of people without trials. [sentence as received] Such a relationship will not fail because of the absence of options and discussion. It is a relation that flows in one direction, in which the poor side does not possess options except to obey all orders.

To understand why the Egyptian president obeys orders we have to get acquainted with some simple facts—that Egypt receives two billion dollars annually from the American aid programme, in addition to the fact that Egypt imports 70 percent of its needs of wheat from the USA at symbolic prices sometimes and in a shape of grants other times. The American Administration has been providing Egypt during the last months with quantities of (?wheat) sufficing it for not more than two weeks. Since these are the situations in Egypt what can Mubarak do as regards the orders of who keeps his regime alive?

The last visit of Mubarak to Europe was demonstrated by the Egyptian, American and European media in a false framework in a bid to hide its real objectives. But Mubarak, with his permanent nervous style, disclosed the real targets of the visit while he was speaking about the terrorism being exported to Egypt, as he alleged, by the Sudan and Iran through the Islamic groups.

The aim of the visit is to persuade the American President Clinton to practise more pressures against the Sudan. It is clear that Mubarak is implementing a scenario mapped out by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) which is similar to the scenario that led to the eruption of two wars in the Gulf. The new scenario aims at destroying not only the Islamic force which starts to advent in the heart of Africa, but it also aims at devastating the Egyptian power and it may be aimed at destroying Iran and Libya too. If the war has broken out between the Sudan and Egypt it will end without any victory for each side but will result in devastation of the infrastructure in the two countries.

Mubarak thinks he is an intelligent [man] when he fixed the date of the war in these circumstances during which the Sudanese Armed Forces are engaging in a severe war in the South, believing that he will attain his targets of seizing the Sudanese lands and gain the satisfaction of the West when the Government of Sudan collapses due to these provocations as he expects, the writer said. Mubarak forgot that the powers that instigate him against the Sudan will not allow him to realise a lasting victory so as to be a regional power in the Middle East area because they fear that Egypt will constitute a threat for the Western interests in the Gulf. He also does not know the nature of the Sudanese people.

Red Cross Resumes Relief Supplies to South

*AB1305111593 Paris AFP in English 1801 GMT
12 May 93*

[Text] Nairobi, May 12 (AFP)—The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Wednesday it had resumed relief flights to war-torn southern Sudan, more than a year after it was expelled by the government.

The ICRC was expelled after the Khartoum government complained that it was operating illegally in rebel-held territory, where it was helping 12,000 southern Sudanese boys displaced by the war between the Muslim north and the mainly animist and Christian south.

Hundreds of thousands of people face starvation in the south, a vast undeveloped area of savannah and swamp-land, after 10 years of war and repeated drought, the United Nations says.

The ICRC resumed flights Monday [10 May] after reaching agreement with the government on its future role in southern Sudan, the organisation said in a statement released here.

Two ICRC officials flew to the southern government garrison town of Juba on Monday to assess relief needs and deliver medical supplies to hospitals and camps for displaced people.

The ICRC will make a detailed survey of 14 areas in the Upper Nile and Equatoria Provinces, some controlled by the government and others held by factions of the rebel

Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Relief officials say fighting between warring rebel factions has disrupted relief operations in several areas.

Peace talks between the Khartoum government and the two main rebel factions being held in Nigeria and Kenya have raised little optimism about an end to the conflict in Africa's biggest country. Tribal rivalries and accusations of human rights abuses have divided the southern rebel movement, which splintered into two main factions two years ago.

Tunisia

Foreign Minister Receives Libyan Counterpart

LD1105215093 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya received 'Umar al- Muntasir, secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, at the ministry today. The meeting was within the framework of continued consultations between the two fraternal countries on the issues in the region.

Minister, Cuban Official Discuss Cooperation

LD1105220393 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Minister of National Economy Sadok Rabah and Ernesto Melendez Bachs, Cuban minister president of

the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, presided over a working session devoted to discussing Tunisian-Cuban economic cooperation.

During the meeting Sadok Rabah said that Tunisia and Cuba had been able to lay down an appropriate framework for trade exchanges as a result of the agreement signed in November 1992. He pointed out that the agreement opened new horizons for economic cooperation between Tunisia and Cuba.

The Cuban official talked about the efforts made by his country on the path of economic liberalization, pointing out the opportunities opened up by that policy in developing cooperation with Tunisia in many fields.

Algeria Signs Agreement To Supply Electric Power

LD0405224893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
2200 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] An agreement was signed in Tunis today to supply Tunisia with electric power. The agreement was signed on behalf of the Algerian side by Abdelbaki Ben Abdou, director general of SONALGAZ [expansion unknown], and on behalf of the Tunisian side by Moncef Ben Abdalla, director general of the Tunisian Electricity and Gas Company.

Under the agreement, the Tunisian company will buy 280 million kilowatt hours this year and about 420 million kilowatt hours next year.

GCC Head on Seeking Better Rapport With Iran

LD1205172993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] The foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] has underlined the eagerness of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member-states to establish a regional rapport with the neighboring countries, especially with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Rashid Bin-'Abdallah [al-Na'imi], who is also the present head of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, made the remark at the conclusion of the 14th foreign ministerial session of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council last night. He added: The Persian Gulf Cooperation Council also stresses the need to hold fundamental talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran toward removing the existing ambiguities and creating a climate of political trust and security.

Kuwait

Information Minister on 'Sifting' Out Fifth Column

LD1305104893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0832 GMT 13 May 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 13 May, (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah affirmed in a press interview published here today that Kuwait currently needs a "sifting and cleaning" operation from the fifth column, which is spreading rumors and attempting to upset security.

In his interview with AL-WATAN newspaper, he praises the role of the Kuwaiti security organs in arresting the terrorist network which attempted to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait, and upset security in Kuwait. [passage omitted]

The information minister refuted Iraqi allegations that he is behind the recent move with regard to eliminating Saddam, affirming that the Democrats and the Republicans in the U.S. Congress, some of whom were in the past against intervention and war during the crisis of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, have for the first time unanimously agreed on the need to eliminate Saddam. Shaykh Sa'ud describes these accusations as being "silly". [passage omitted]

Concerning the issue of those with undetermined nationality, the minister points out that the complete conceptions for this issue have been drafted by the Council of Ministers, and the report has been referred to the National Assembly, stressing that whoever proves his loyalty can stay and the rest must leave willingly or unwillingly.

As for the Kuwaiti nationality and the question of unifying it, he says this issue must be settled because the time has come to conclude many issues and devote to the future of Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia

Senior Ulema Council Calls Rights Committee Illegal

LD1205165193 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Riyadh, 12 May 1993 (SPA)—The following statement has been issued by the Senior Ulema Council:

Thanks be to God and prayers and peace be upon the Prophet of God, his family and companions and those who followed his guidance. And now to our subject matter:

The Senior Ulema Council, in its 40th session which convened in Riyadh from 10.11.1413 AH to 19.11.1413 AH [corresponding to 1 May to 10 May 1993] took notice of a leaflet headlined "Announcement of the establishment of a Committee for the Defense of Rights Under the Shari'ah" [Lujnat al- Difa' 'an al-Huquq al-Shari'yah] signed by Hamad al-Slayfeh, 'Abdallah Bin-Sulayman al-Mas'ari, 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-Rahman al- Jibrin, 'Abdallah al-Hamid, Sulayman Bin-Ibrahim al-Rishudi, and 'Abdallah Bin-Humud al-Tuwayjiri who appointed themselves as being the Committee for the Defense of Rights Under the Shari'ah, as they put it. They expressed their readiness in this leaflet to receive whoever wished to inform them of any injustice or documented information that would help them carry out what they have appointed themselves and issued addresses and telephones which can receive messages and calls.

The Council, surprised by the behavior of those brothers in constituting themselves as a Committee for the Defense of Rights Under the Shari'ah and announcing it in the foreign media, denounces this activity and has unanimously decided the illegality of the formation of this committee and the inadmissibility of its recognition because the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, thanks to God, rules by God's law, and the shari'ah courts are spread all over the country and no one is prevented from taking his grievances to the competent authorities in the courts or the board of grievances. The authors of the leaflet are fully aware of it and also aware of the consequences that arise from the existence of this committee.

God grants success and guidance. Prayers and peace be on our prophet, his kinfolk and companions.

[Signed] Senior Ulema Council, head of the session, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Baz; [also by] Salih Bin Muhammad al-Lihidan, Rashid Bin-Salih Bin-Khanin, Muhammad Bin-Ibrahim Bin-Jubayr, 'Abdallah Bin-Sulayman Bin-Man'i, 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-Rahman al-Ghadyan, Dr Salih Bin-Fawzan al-Fawzan, Muhammad

Bin-Salih al-'Uthaymin, 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-Rahman al-Bassam, Hassan Bin-Ja'far al-'Atmi, 'Abd-al-Aziz Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Muhammad Al Shaykh, Nasir Bin-Hamad al-Rashid, Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah al-Sibayl, Muhammad Bin-Sulayman al-Badr, Dr 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-Hamzah al-Marzuqi, Dr 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Turki, Muhammad Bin-Zayd al-Sulayman, Dr Bakr Bin-'Abdallah Abu-Zayd, Dr 'Abd-al-Wahab Bin-Ibrahim Abu Sulayman, Dr Salih Bin-'Abd-al-Rahman al-Atram, Dr 'Abdallah Bin-Ibrahim al-Shaykh.

United Arab Emirates

Egypt's President Mubarak Arrives on 3-Day Visit

NC1205145693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening on an official three-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan was at Abu Dhabi International Airport to receive President Mubarak.

Talks To Deal With Security, Terrorism

NC1305075393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 13 May 93

[Mamduh Sa'd dispatch from Abu Dhabi]

[Text] Official talks between President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], will begin at noon today. Official sources in Abu Dhabi have stated that the talks are based on common Egyptian and UAE policies regarding Arab and international issues. 'Abdallah al-Muhayribi, president of the UAE Consultative Council, told our radio that Mubarak's visit will have a positive effect on the promotion of overall Egyptian-UAE relations and mutual understanding. He added that Egyptian security is linked to Gulf security, indeed to the entire region's security, and noted that Egypt's success in surmounting its economic crisis will make it stronger, give it a more effective role, and make the region more stable and firm in confronting the strong challenges that obstruct its development.

Mubarak's talks with Shaykh Zayid will be conducted against this background of Arab understanding of Egypt's positions and status. The discussions will deal primarily with the developments pertaining to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, efforts to combat terrorism,

and promoting pan-Arab security while keeping in mind the extreme importance of the Damascus Declaration. The Declaration enshrines collective Arab action and noble values.

Mubarak is due to meet this evening with members of the Egyptian community in the UAE at his place of residence in al-Mushrif Palace. His excellency will talk to them about various aspects of national endeavors. He will answer their questions on issues of concern to Egypt and the nation.

Shaykh Zayid Confers With Mubarak

JN1305095393 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0545 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, in Abu Dhabi tonight. The Egyptian President is currently on a visit to the United Arab Emirates.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged viewpoints on common issues of interest to the Arab nation, regional developments, and bilateral relations.

Iran Sends Message on Bilateral Relations

LD1205123293 Tehran IRNA in English 1159 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 12, IRNA—A message of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati was submitted to foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Hamdan Bin Zaid Al-Nahyan, on Tuesday.

The message, delivered by Iran's ambassador in the UAE, Hasan Aminian, dealt with bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest. Sheikh Hamdan stressed the need for further exchange of views between the two countries on regional and Islamic issues. Both sides also discussed ways of upgrading bilateral relations.

Belarus Prime Minister Arrives on Visit

JN1105040193 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 May (WAKH)—Belarus Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich arrived in Abu Dhabi this afternoon on a three-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

During his visit, Kebich will meet with senior UAE officials and discuss with them ways to bolster bilateral relations in the economic and trade fields. They will also discuss developments in the Middle East, the Balkan states, and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Paper Denies Bush Targeted, Says Iraqis Want Him To Live

*JN1305125693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT
13 May 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 13 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has said that the Iraqis do not want Bush to die because death is eternal comfort and they, in any case, do not want such comfort for Bush.

In a column written by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Majid, the paper adds: We want Bush to live so that he will be tormented by reports on reconstruction in our country, so that he would feel pain when he contemplates his heinous crimes, so that he will be tortured when he witnesses every new Iraqi accomplishment, and so that he will burn in the fire of resentment when he sees that our Iraqi people are united and firm.

The paper continues to say: We want Bush to live so that he will drink the deadly poison every day. Rumors that Iraq targeted George Bush's life during his visit to Kuwait are absolutely untrue.

Following is the text of the column written by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Majid in today's issue of AL-QADISIYAH.

In the mid 1980s, leader Saddam Husayn said: I hope Khomeyni will live to witness the end of the war when he will be defeated. At the time, Iraq was in the heat of the war and Iraqis were extremely angry with Khomeyni because he continued the aggression against our country. Moreover, international efforts and Iraqi initiatives were on hold awaiting the word "yes" from Khomeyni's mouth. Although Khomeyni was about to die at the time, our leader wished that he would live longer so that he would witness, with his own eyes, Iran's defeat in the war. What happened happened. God responded to the leader's wish and Iraq's enemies drank the deadly poison.

If the leader wished something like this, perhaps he would wish that George Bush lives a long time to witness Iraq's victories and live the pains of his defeat not only in the U.S. elections but throughout the rest of his life. The mere survival of Bush is the greatest divine retribution for the crimes he committed against the Iraqis and their leadership.

We do not call for Bush's death. Death, in our standards, is eternal comfort for the human being. We, in any case, do not want such comfort for Bush. We want him to live so that he will be tormented by reports on reconstruction in our country and so that he will feel the pain when he contemplates his heinous crimes which we turned into a base for our renaissance through our patience and the will of our leadership.

We belong to a nation that does not retreat and whose torch will not be put out by the sacrifices offered in the course of just wars. We set an example to be emulated in patience and indurance—an example that does not please the enemies. We are certain that Bush is tortured

by each new accomplishment in Iraq reported by news agencies. He will become more hateful and angry with each strike of a pickaxe in projects to reconstruct what was damaged by the 30-state aggression, with each generous hand extended to build a new project, and with each humanitarian initiative within the framework of social solidarity. Bush is burning in the fire of resentment as he sees that our Iraqi people are united and firm and witnesses the continuous enthusiasm within our universities, plants, fields, libraries, and scientific research centers. What torments him the most is that our leader is with us in the front lines reaping, writing, inventing, caring about people, reassuring them, and raising the edifice. After all this, we say that we want Bush to live so that he will drink the deadly poison everyday. Moreover, rumors that Iraq targeted George Bush's life during his visit to Kuwait are absolutely not true.

Letter to UN Protests Sanctions Committee Decisions

*JN1205120593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1040 GMT 12 May 93*

["Text" of letter from Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, dated 11 May—read by announcer]

[Text] Respected Dr. Butrus-Ghali, UN Secretary General, New York:

Further to my letters, the latest one dated 13 February 1993, I have the honor to draw your attention to the practices that are made in the name of the committee that was formed under UN Security Council Resolution 661 of 1990, known as the Sanctions Committee, and the unfair and unjustified stands that the representatives of the United States, Britain, Japan, and France impose on the committee that denote biased and illegal interpretations of the UN resolutions and that indicate the extent of arbitrariness and injustice that have befallen the Iraqi people as a result of their being deprived of their basic humanitarian needs.

Your Excellency, the decisions by the Sanctions Committee in its meeting on 5 and 6 April 1993 are another example of the injustice and arbitrariness practiced against the Iraqi people.

A quick review of the requests that the committee has rejected at this meeting, makes us list the following:

1. The United States objected to 33 demands.
2. The United Kingdom objected to 25 demands.
3. Japan objected to 10 demands.
4. France objected to 4 demands.

These unfair stands are serious precedents that tarnish the United Nations' reputation because they are precedents that violate the bases of international law, the UN Charter, and the fundamental rights of the individual.

The unjustified objections made by the committee in its recent meeting, examples of which I detail hereunder, is explicit proof of the practices I have mentioned:

1. The committee rejected several requests to supply Iraq with textiles, including threads used in weaving children's clothing under the pretext that this material is used for industrial purposes. The oppressors want to say that Iraq is prohibited from having a textile industry.

2. The committee rejected a request by the Paris-based (CIS) company to supply Iraq with 1,200 kg of nylon to be used for sifting wheat by the General Grains Enterprise. The rejected material is a finished product that is used in sieves in grain mills to separate wheat from pebbles, dirt, and other alien materials to make it acceptable for the production of bread. From this premise, this material is an essential humanitarian material given that it is used in the bread industry, a basic nutritional need for any people. The Sanctions Committee should have agreed to this request.

3. The committee has rejected several requests for endorsing the supplying of Iraq with glues required for school purposes for the binding of books. The Ministry of Education alone needs 50 million copies of textbooks in a single year, not to mention the copies required by students at all stages of education. Moreover, children in elementary school glue for handicrafts and art education. Consequently, the pretext advanced by some committee members that it is a material needed for industry is untrue.

4. The committee has refused to endorse supplying Iraq with 120 tonnes of wool rock felt under the pretext that it is a material used in industry, when wool rock is really a finished product used for insulation that has nothing to do with industry.

5. The committee has refused to endorse supplying Iraq with blank audio cassettes, contending that they are materials used in industry, when everybody knows that blank audio cassettes are finished products that have nothing to do with industry.

Your Excellency, the aforementioned materials, along with other materials, the supply of which was rejected by the committee in its recent meeting, were contained in more than 71 requests. These requests included humanitarian supplies needed by all peoples of the globe. It is inconceivable that the provisions enshrined in the UN Charter, could, in letter or spirit, prohibit the supply of these materials to any country. We cannot understand these objections except as positions reflecting a premeditated policy aimed at denying the Iraqi people access to their most basic humanitarian requirements. Consequently, one can say that the work of this committee has begun to run counter to the purposes for which the

committee was formed. Moreover, the continued performance of this committee along these lines actually tarnishes the reputation of the world body and calls into question its very credibility.

Your Excellency, please use your good offices and intervene to halt these practices, which run counter to all humanitarian considerations. Besides, I hope that you will circulate this letter as an official Security Council document.

Please accept my best regards.

[Signed] Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, Iraqi minister of foreign affairs

[Dated] 11 May 1993

Banker Says State Not Responsible for Currency Abroad

JN1205161493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1510 GMT
12 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 12 May (INA)—Diya' al-Khuyun, director general of Iraq's al-Rafidayn Bank, has affirmed that Iraq's decision to withdraw the Swiss version of the 25-dinar banknote from circulation is a domestic, sovereign decision that has nothing to do with things taking place abroad.

In a statement to ALIF BA' magazine today, al-Khuyun said that each country is responsible for doing whatever is necessary for its currency, depending on its economic situation. He said the decision has nothing to do with what takes place abroad.

He added that the decision dealt a blow to the parasitic opportunists abroad who sought to sabotage the national economy by smuggling and speculating in Iraq's national currency on the basis of two prices, one domestic and one foreign.

He explained that such behavior is unacceptable, even under international law. He affirmed that Iraq's resources and wealth constitute a very large cover for the Iraqi currency.

Diya' al-Khuyun affirmed that the state is not responsible for currency held abroad illegitimately.

'New Scenario' for Enemy Aggression Seen

JN1305093593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT
13 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 13 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH affirms that the historic showdown of the immortal Mother of Battles has not yet ended, but that it will be settled, God willing, with the steadfastness of the Iraqi people and their rallying around their leader. All strings of the game of double-dealing, deception, and aggression, the paper adds, will be torn apart.

In an article published today, AL-QADISIYAH, which speaks for the Iraqi Ministry of Defense, goes on to say: The aggressors are drawing up a new scenario providing for the directions of Iraq's response and containing selected targets as part of preparations for a possible new attack on Iraq, forgetting that Iraq has held out in the face of the most ferocious aggression during the historic showdown of the Mother of Battles.

The paper stresses that Iraq and its people are standing firmly in the face of the attempts to destroy its economy and national currency regardless of how ferocious these attempts and conspiracies by enemies and traitors may become.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: The currency war has coincided with a wave of psychological warfare triggered by the Bush assassination story. This is designed to fabricate groundless accusations against Iraq.

The paper notes that enemies were alarmed by Iraq's successful and firm confrontation of their malicious schemes, and also by its ability to defeat the chapters of their conspiracy one after another.

The paper points out that the results of the tyrannical military aggression have been reversed by the counteroffensive launched in the field of reconstruction, adding that the conspiracy of partitioning and division has been confronted by the most powerful mobilization process in the history of Iraq—a process that reflected national unity at its best.

The paper wonders whether Iraq is expected to stand idle while efforts to destroy its economy and crush its national currency are under way.

AL-QADISIYAH adds that the agents in northern Iraq as well as the oil shaykhs have raised a clamor in the aftermath of Iraq's decision to annul its foreign-printed 25-dinar banknote, indicating that petty agents Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani are appealing for help from the United Nations to protect them from the effects of the Iraqi decision. Likewise, petty agents in the Gulf, the paper notes, are lamenting their bad luck because they lost billions of Iraqi dinars, as they claim. These agents should ask themselves why they collected these billions of Iraqi dinars in the first place, and what they wanted to achieve by hoarding them. One wonders, the paper concludes, why they have begun to cry in the aftermath of the Iraqi decision.

Minister Calls For Release of Frozen Assets Abroad

JN1205141493 Baghdad INA in English 1240 GMT
12 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 12 (INA)—Iraq has appealed to the world states and all humanitarian bodies to free its assets frozen abroad with a view to purchasing medicine and food.

During a meeting of the World Health Organization, WHO, being held in Geneva on May 3-14, health minister and acting labour and social affairs minister affirmed that the Iraqi delegation demanded and WHO members to raise voice for enabling Iraq to buy the medical appliances and supplies, saying that Iraq is now suffering from acute shortages in food and medicine.

The delegation also demanded to free the Iraqi assets deposited at foreign banks to enable the government purchase the necessary needs.

During the WHO meeting, the minister shed light on plight of the people of Iraq as a result of the ongoing economic sanctions which created adverse effects to the population, confirming that the Iraqi delegation set documented figures and statistics on fierce effects of the U.S.-led war on the Iraqi people.

RCC Raises Prices Paid for Agricultural Crops

JN1205140593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, yesterday presided over a Revolution Command Council [RCC] meeting to discuss a report by the economic ministerial committee charged with studying and making recommendations on a number of economic issues. Vice Presidents Taha Yasin Ramadan and Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, Defense Minister Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, and RCC member Mizban Khadr Hadi attended the meeting.

Following a detailed discussion of the committee's recommendations, leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, ordered that the prices paid for agricultural crops purchased by the government be increased as follows:

I. CEREALS: WHEAT AND BARLEY

A. (?Loose) wheat and barley delivered at silos:

1. First grade wheat from 4,000 to 5,000 dinars per tonne.
2. Coarse wheat from 3,750 to 4,750 dinars per tonne.
3. Other types of wheat from 3,500 to 4,500 dinars per tonne.
4. Barley, both white and black variety, from 2,000 to 2,500 dinars per tonne.

B. Sacked wheat and barley delivered at warehouses, sheds, and inside and outside yards of silos:

1. First grade wheat from 3,950 to 4,950 dinars per tonne.
2. Coarse wheat from 3,700 to 4,700 dinars per tonne.

3. Other types of wheat from 3,450 to 4,450 dinars per tonne.

4. Barley, both white and black variety, from 1,950 to 2,450 dinars per tonne.

C. Sacked wheat and barley delivered at foreign marketing centers:

1. First grade wheat from 3,900 to 4,900 dinars per tonne.

2. Coarse wheat from 3,650 to 4,650 dinars per tonne.

3. Other types of wheat from 3,400 to 4,400 dinars per tonne.

4. Barley, both white and black variety, from 1,900 to 2,400 dinars per tonne.

The new wheat and barley prices shall be enforced from the beginning of the current 1993 season, including the quantities marketed thus far.

II. RICE

A. 'Anbar and shkara rice from 5,000 to 7,000 dinars per tonne.

B. Mishkhab rice from 4,000 to 5,000 dinars per tonne.

C. Other types of rice from 3,000 to 4,000 dinars per tonne.

These prices shall apply to the quantities that will be marketed during the next season.

III. COTTON WOOL

A. Excellent grade cotton wool from 11,500 to 13,000 dinars per tonne.

B. First grade cotton wool from 11,000 to 12,000 dinars per tonne.

C. Second grade cotton wool from 9,500 to 10,000 dinars per tonne.

These prices shall apply to the quantities that will be marketed during the next season.

Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office; Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president of the Republic, supervisor of industry and oil, and head of the economic ministerial committee; Ahmad Husayn, committee member and finance minister; Samal Majid Faraj, committee member and planning minister; Muhammad Mahdi Salih, committee member and trade minister; Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di, committee member and minister of industry and minerals; and Presidential Office Deputy Chairman Khalil al-Ma'muri attended the meeting.

May God protect leader President Saddam Husayn and bless his jihad and efforts for the sake of his loyal, patient, and faithful people and for a solid economic edifice that serves as a pillar for national sovereignty and

a means for the progress of the country and the prosperity and happiness of all citizens. God is our guide along the road of construction and victory over the enemies. He is the best supporter of the faithful mujahidin.

Private Investment Bank Established

JN1105155493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT
11 May 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 11 May (INA)—It has been decided to establish a private bank under the name "The Private Bank Company for Investment" with operating capital of 160 million Iraqi dinars.

Muhammad Hasan al-Qazzaz, chairman of the bank's founding body, told INA that the bank will seek primarily to invest funds in agricultural, industrial, and real estate plans, and to provide support for those who wish to invest in these fields. [passage omitted]

Kurdish Leaders Appeal for UN Help in Currency Crisis

NC1205212593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, and Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, have sent an urgent appeal to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali to help the Kurdish people in Iraqi Kurdistan confront the destructive effects to the Kurdish economy of the Iraqi regime's decision to withdraw the 25-dinar banknote printed abroad. They called for an urgent humanitarian aid program and for excluding Kurdistan from the international blockade imposed on Iraq.

Brother Talabani stressed that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is seeking to separate Kurdistan from Iraq economically after separating it politically when he withdrew utilities and administrative services from the liberated areas in Kurdistan. In a press interview, he said the regional government of Kurdistan is studying solutions to confront the Iraqi regime's latest decision. He pointed out that one of the solutions is to open a new branch of the al-Rafidayn Bank or a Bank of Kurdistan until a new or foreign currency is adopted now that the Iraqi dinar has lost its value. He noted that the recent economic developments in Iraq have proved that Saddam Husayn is prepared to take any measure to help him remain in power. Saddam is not interested in Iraq's unity, people, or future, he concluded.

Talabani and Barzani will leave for New York for talks with UN officials and representatives of the UN Security Council members to seek aid to confront the harm caused by the Iraqi regime's decision.

Saddam's Son, Adviser Said Among Assassination Targets

NC1205151293 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1345 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance has announced responsibility for an assassination attempt against criminal 'Udayy Saddam, the eldest son of Iraq's dictator, on 23 [month indistinct] 1993. The resistance stated that one of its heroes planted a time bomb in a garbage can near the room 'Udayy uses in the Iraqi Olympic Committee building in Baghdad. It said the bomb went off as scheduled, 0815 Baghdad time, but that the criminal escaped because he was late for work that day.

Our sources obtained documented information that the tyrant's authorities arrested officers and engineers at the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO] late last month. They were charged with planning to assassinate criminal Husayn Kamil, MIO supervisor and tyrant Saddam's adviser. First Lieutenant Ahmad Ni'mah Hashim and Engineer Bashir 'Abbas [word indistinct] were among the detainees, according to the reports, which also say the special security forces cordoned off and stormed the MIO building, arresting many staff members.

Leading members of the ruling family in Iraq have been targets of assassination attempts in the past month. The regime's Interior Minister Watban was severely wounded in an attempt on his life.

Peres Reviews Foreign Ministry Activities

TA1205105293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 May 93 p. A4

[Report by Gid'on Alon and Tzvi Zrahya]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres did not conceal his disappointment last night when only a handful of the Knesset members [MK] who had posed questions to him in the course of a debate about the Foreign Ministry's activities remained in the hall to listen to his answers. [passage omitted]

Peres said that Arab participation in the peace process is "a foregone conclusion in a changing world." According to him, the real challenges this region faces are: setting up a new economic order, solving the water problems, moderating the arms race, saving the environment, and solving the problem of the refugees.

He emphasized that these challenges "cannot be fulfilled without regional cooperation and without the realization that the time has come to turn the Middle East from a region owned by rulers to an area that meets the needs of people."

The foreign minister pointed out that past conflicts—borders, territory, and authority—are being discussed in the bilateral negotiations. "We aspire to create honorable relations with our Palestinian neighbors; to have them live their own lives while aptly safeguarding the security of our citizens. They need not be our laborers and we need not be their policemen," Peres said.

According to him, "as part of the multilateral negotiations, we are trying to lay the foundations of a new Middle East built on economic cooperation and a regional security concept." The foreign minister noted that the working group on regional economic cooperation which met in Rome last week decided that the World Bank would draft a list of proposed regional projects, such as linking the electricity grids of the countries of the region. Peres said that some \$6 billion would be saved if the electricity grids of Jordan, Egypt, and Israel were linked. "The potential is enormous," Peres stated enthusiastically, "and it is no wonder that it has captured the imagination of our negotiating partners."

The foreign minister went on to say that the Foreign Ministry is currently in the midst of a comprehensive reorganization of the ministry's structure and its training courses. According to him, although the Foreign Ministry's activities will focus on the peace process, it will try to improve its contribution to it through research, planning, and international relations. Along with the promotion of the peace process, emphasis will be given to expanding the ministry's activities in the spheres of economy, science and culture, trade agreements, tourism, and modern mass communications.

Opposition MK's lashed out at the government's foreign policy. Tzomet MK Refa'el Eytan said that "Israel's foreign policy, if there is one, has fallen prey to false clichés about peace and, among other things, has turned

a blind eye to the dictatorial nature of the Arab countries with whom a peace agreement would be a worthless piece of paper."

Eytan asserted that "the foreign minister would be well advised to ask for recompense from the Arab countries and the Palestinians, rather than pull the rug from under our feet." He asserted that Peres "should demand from the Arabs the abolition of the clause in the Palestinian National Covenant calling for the annihilation of Israel, to forego the right of return, and to announce the cessation of terror and the intifadah for the duration of the political process."

Peres took issue with MK Eytan's remarks, saying: "The Arabs have changed thanks to you too, because we defeated them in five wars and they no longer feel the urge to set out on a sixth war with us. After five wars, the Arab world is no longer the same. We, too, cannot live by the sword forever and we must look for other ways."

Hinting at his meeting in London with King Husayn, Peres said: "Some claim that I conferred with Husayn in London and that we reached an agreement."

Sneering at Eytan's contention that "we must make demands of the Palestinians," Peres said: "What can we expect Gazans to give us? Their hovels? Unemployment and poverty? I do not want to be the administrator of Jabalyah and Gaza."

MK Mikha'el Eytan, the only Likud member present in the hall, heckled the foreign minister: "So why do you not get out of Gaza?," to which Peres retorted: "We want to leave in an orderly manner. We are in no rush, we are not in a panic."

Criticizing the Likud and its leader Binyamin Netanyahu, Peres said: "The Likud is constantly accusing us of giving in, although at one time it did the same but without saying so outright."

Concluding his speech, the foreign minister stated: "Today's Israel is not the Israel of 1948. It has the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and deterrent power. Israel is not a cowardly lion."

[A related report by Knesset correspondent Yona Kohen on page 1 of Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew on 12 May adds: "Reviewing his ministry's activities in the Knesset yesterday, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that Israel currently maintains diplomatic relations with 124 countries and has 90 representations in various countries."

["Asked by NRP [National Religious Party] MK Sha'ul Yahalom about the government's position in general and his own position in particular with regard to the Golan Heights in view of the numerous and conflicting public statements to this effect, the foreign minister said: "My position on the matter is known. The press report citing me was written by a single journalist, and it was totally

false. As for Jewish settlements remaining under non-Jewish rule, this proposal is similar to the one the NRP and the Likud made with regard to the settlements in the Sinai."

[On another question, Peres said that the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks "would soon be chosen in elections."]

Rabin To Answer Christopher Message 12 May

TA1205171993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] The prime minister has received a message from the U.S. secretary of state and he intends to answer it by this evening. Mr. Rabin said this during his address to the 12th convention of the Independent Liberal Party.

The prime minister spoke about the settlers who are arming themselves, saying that the government will not permit a Lebanonization of Israel, and that not even the rudiments of this phenomenon will be tolerated. Rabin said that it is the duty of the law to defend the citizens and democracy from those who are trying to take advantage of democracy to destroy it from within.

The prime minister also spoke of the closure, saying that only a separation between the two nations can bring about peace and security. He added that we are not talking here about a return to the 1967 borders.

Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that the convention of the Independent Liberal Party decided to join the Labor Party as an ideological circle.

Beilin Leaves for U.S. for Talks on Vietnam, DPRK

TA1305053593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin last night left for the United States for talks on several issues, including relations with Vietnam, North Korea, and South Africa. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Israel wants to coordinate stands with the United States regarding North Korea because the Koreans have been selling missiles to Iran and pulled out of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. As for Vietnam, Israel wishes to coordinate its stand with Washington because the Americans are due to open an economic representation in Hanoi in several months.

New U.S. Proposal To Syria Discussed

TA1305135293 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 12 May 93 p 26

[Report by 'Uzi Mahanaymi]

[Excerpt] In an attempt to thaw the freeze with the Syrians, the United States is initiating a new proposal to be presented to the sides in the next round of talks. Arab

sources in London close to the Syrians claim that what the Americans are aiming at is for Israel to declare outright its readiness to withdraw from the entire Golan Heights, while the Syrians will make a commitment to relinquish their strategic weaponry (missiles, chemical weapons), and Israel will be incorporated in a Middle East common market after peace is achieved.

The Americans will also demand that Syria announce a cessation of the arms race and their agreement to transfer water from Turkey to Israel via Syria. The Syrians will also be asked to declare their opposition to terrorism and thereby to be removed from the list of countries the United States says support terror.

The U.S. idea is to make progress toward a joint document of principles, which they thought could have been achieved in the current round of talks. According to the sources, the Americans told the Syrians that they are not opposed to holding a dialogue with the Syrians outside the framework of the Washington talks. In other words, they do not want the dialogue to replace the talks, but to set up a separate American-Syrian track. That would make it easier for the Syrians to make "gestures" of the type Israel made toward the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Commentary Urges U.S-PLO Dialogue

TA1105170893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 May 93 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "A Tacit Agreement Will Suffice"]

[Excerpts] Itamar Rabinovich last week sent his counterpart, head of the Syrian delegation, to receive new instructions from Damascus. Elyaqim Rubinstein is not obliged to encourage Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi to go home for instructions. Both of them know from where the Palestinians receive their orders. 'Abd-al-Shafi's problem, however, is that he has to be attuned to two homes: The physical home in Gaza and the political home in Tunis. If it were up to the Palestinian delegation members only, none of them would have gone to Washington. Only a leader with 'Arafat's status could force on them the ninth round of talks, despite the protests of some of his colleagues in the PLO's institutions. Thus Rabin's theory, according to which the success of the autonomy negotiations contradicts the interests of PLO-Tunis, has been at least temporarily refuted.

However, as long as the PLO is precluded from being an official partner in the negotiations, the various sides will find it hard to orchestrate the Palestinian choir, which does not always sing in one voice. When the delegation members refused to go to Washington, 'Arafat dictated to the Americans a new date and the delegation arrived. Now, when it appears that the delegation is pushing ahead too quickly, 'Arafat is quick on the brakes. The present round of talks once more underscores the point that a weak Palestinian leadership needs a strong peace proposal which it could sell to the frustrated Palestinian population. A strong leadership could settle for a weaker

proposal, because it is not at the mercy of a precarious and at times violent street. Had 'Arafat not forfeited (at least temporarily) the inclusion of the Palestinian diaspora's right of return in the negotiations, it is doubtful whether the representatives of the territories would have dared participate in talks which did not include this issue on their agenda.

Israel has already met the Palestinian delegation halfway in order to strengthen its position. The price could have been lower had Israel permitted Nabil Sha'th to traverse the distance between the corridors and the negotiating room in Washington. The PLO would have paid with hard currency in exchange for his invitation to the negotiating table. Israel's concession regarding Faysal al-Husayni has already proven itself, since it transpired that he is the most moderate element in the Palestinian delegation. Indeed, the Israeli delegation members do not miss an opportunity for praising his positive contribution to the talks. Al-Husayni, however, wants to return home in one piece, and will undoubtedly stop playing the "good boy" soon enough.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has recently posed the rhetorical question "what can the Palestinians give us?" several times, going on to conclude that everything is up to Israel. This conclusion is inaccurate. The Palestinians can offer Israel calm in the territories in order to improve the atmosphere surrounding the negotiations. Only 'Arafat, however, can restrict the intifadah without running the risk of being maligned as a traitor.

Countless learned articles have already demonstrated the senselessness and absurdity of Israel's refusal to hold direct talks with the PLO. None of them, however, crossed Rabin's threshold of fear of public opinion. There is something, however, that Rabin can do in order to strengthen the pragmatic Palestinian leadership. He can inform Clinton that Israel no longer opposes the resumption of the U.S.-PLO dialogue. [passage omitted]

Since the Bush administration stopped the dialogue with the PLO after the abortive terror attack on the Nizzanim beach, 'Arafat has carried out several positive acts which go far beyond positive statements which he made in late 1988. The only thing standing between the PLO and the resumption of the dialogue with the United States is Israel's okay, and 'Arafat knows this very well. All that is needed is a tacit agreement on Israel's part; even a mild denunciation of a de jure U.S. recognition of the PLO-Tunis would suffice. 'Arafat, in exchange for a direct dialogue with Clinton, will agree to pay a price not lower, and perhaps even higher, than what he would have offered for a direct dialogue with Rabin. A direct channel between Washington and Tunis would considerably simplify the autonomy talks and would rekindle the hopes of the inhabitants of the territories. [passage omitted]

Agreement on Welfare Issues Signed With Russia *TA1205152093 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 12 May 93 p 6*

[Report by 'Eran Klein]

[Text] Israel and Russia yesterday signed a cooperation agreement on welfare issues, as part of the visit in Israel of Russian Labor and Employment Minister Gennadiy Melikyan.

Melikyan has already conferred with Labor and Welfare Minister Ora Namir, and will today meet with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, members of the Knesset Labor and Welfare Committee, and Histadrut labor federation leaders.

IDF Logistics Branch Head on Scenarios for Peace

TA1305113393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 May 93 p B2

[Interview with Major General Shalom Hagay, head of the IDF Logistics Branch, by Eytan Rabin; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Rabin] Is the Logistics Branch preparing to change its plans in the wake of the peace talks?

[Hagay] This issue is not one of our decisionmaking parameters. There is no document on the possible ramifications of a peace agreement. I have received no directive on this issue from the chief of staff, and I have passed no such directive on to my subordinates. The decisionmakers are obviously thinking about this issue, and it can influence some of the considerations regarding various decisions, but I cannot say that it has a practical dimension at the present time. The Logistics Branch has held no discussion aimed at changing our deployment in the wake of the peace talks, not even on the theoretical level. We are also taking care to signal that there are no actual changes in the field. We assume that once a political settlement is reached, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will be given the time to prepare and organize appropriately.

[Eytan] Will Israel's security be harmed if we return the Golan Heights?

[Hagay] Territory and strategic depth are important elements in our security considerations. Their importance, however, is a function of the threats involved. We hope that the threat will be minimized in the framework of a peace agreement. When this happens, we can assess the various parameters of security, one of which is territory. It is impossible to assess the value of territory without defining the level of the threat. Tell me the potency of the threat and I will tell you the importance of the territory. [passage omitted]

[Eytan] What do you think about the fact that Syria is arming itself with sophisticated weapons in the midst of the political process?

[Hagay] This should come as no surprise. We cannot blame Syria for this, because this is exactly what the IDF is doing. They, however, do have plans involving the acquisition of surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, as well as T-72 tanks, because they regard themselves as in a potential state of war with Israel.

Every country that believes it is in a state of war purchases weapons. This does not contradict the fact that peace includes positive elements for the Syrians as well. It is possible to attain military objectives by means of peace. The Syrians do not seek peace merely from fatigue; they believe that this track will enable them to get much more than they could obtain by means of a war against Israel.

I am not justifying the Syrian acquisitions; however, the same question you posed to me could be posed to the Syrian General Staff by a Syrian journalist: Why is Israel purchasing sophisticated weapons in the midst of a peace process? The answer is clear. As long as there is a state of war, nations cannot afford the risk and therefore prepare themselves accordingly. Even when peace begins to blossom, we will not lay down our weapons. The armies of the region will have to remain strong for dozens of years in order to support the peace.

'Terrorists' 'Slightly Wound' Soldiers

TA1205140693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were slightly wounded in Nabulus after terrorists infiltrated into an IDF observation post and stabbed the soldiers. The terrorists managed to escape with the soldiers' weapons. A manhunt after the assailants has been launched. Our correspondent Moti Amir was told that the area was declared a closed military zone.

Chief of Staff Comments

TA1205154693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 May 93

[Interview with Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff, by Menahem Horowitz, during a tour in the north "a short time ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Horowitz] Lt. Gen. Baraq, how would you explain the incident which occurred in Nabulus several hours ago, when terrorists managed to stab two soldiers and grab their personal weapons?

[Baraq] We have just begun to investigate this incident. According to the initial report two soldiers were attacked by local residents. Two soldiers were wounded, one of them seriously and the other slightly. Their weapons were snatched by the assailants. The incident is being

investigated, and at the same time a manhunt has been launched, and I believe that we will apprehend the assailants.

[Horowitz] The soldiers were attacked in the center of Nabulus in broad daylight. Is this an escalation, or have we already witnessed such incidents in the past?

[Baraq] There have been such incidents in the past, some graver and some not as grave. This incident is very grave in terms of its consequences, and we will treat it accordingly.

[Horowitz] It has already been said that following the closure there will be an escalation in attacks on soldiers and settlers in the territories.

[Baraq] Indeed, there is ongoing terrorist activity in Judeaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and we are fighting against it. I do not believe that we have already ended our struggle against the intifadah. We will have to face various kinds of incidents in future as well.

[Horowitz] Lt. Gen. Baraq, do you believe that the closure will continue for a long time?

[Baraq] The closure has been very successful in returning security for Israeli citizens within the Green Line and in facilitating our struggle against the wanted men. More than 80 wanted men have already been caught, have escaped, or have been killed since the beginning of the closure, and this is definitely not the end of the matter. The closure will therefore continue for as long as needed.

Youth Shot Dead by IDF in Gaza Strip

TA1205161593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] There were two fatalities in the territories today. Thirteen-year-old Muhammad Ta'ima of the Shabura refugee camp was shot and killed by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] after soldiers were stoned. Gazans told our correspondent Moti Amir that a Dayr al-Balah youth was killed and 25 people were slightly injured in Gaza Strip incidents during the day. They were treated in local hospitals.

Chief of Staff: Sporadic Fire in North To Continue

TA1305085793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 May 93

[Report from the north by Menahem Horowitz]

[Text] Blasts could be heard in south Lebanon all last night. After a week of relative quiet, the terrorists launched an attack on SLA [South Lebanese Army] posts. Among other means, the terrorists used Sagger missiles, which they fired at the ridges of al-Hitayir, Sujud, and al-Rayhan.

Visiting the north yesterday, Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of staff, referred to the resumption of the attacks in south Lebanon:

[Begin recording] [Baraq] The struggle along the northern border has not ended. The security zone is held and protected by the SLA and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. There is constant friction along its northern border. Today, fire was exchanged there. Hizballah opened fire and the Palestinians were probably also involved. The SLA and IDF returned the fire. At the moment, the area is relatively quiet.

[Horowitz] This comes after a week of complete quiet in the north. How do you explain this, sir?

[Baraq] I do not explain everything. There are quiet weeks and occasionally there are hot weeks, and this will be the situation in the future as well. [end recording]

IDF and SLA artillery fired back at the sources of the terrorists' fire. South Lebanon radio has notified the residents of three villages north of the security zone that they should leave their homes because they might be hurt by SLA and IDF fire aimed at Hizballah targets in these villages.

Fire Returned After Mortar, Rockets Attack on SLA

TA1305131593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Mortars and RPG rockets were fired at an SLA [South Lebanese Army] post in the al-Qantarah area, but there were neither casualties nor damage. South Lebanese sources told our correspondent Yo'av Aviv that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA guns and tanks returned fire at the sources of fire.

Harm to Local Economy Caused by Closure Viewed

TA1205162893

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 12 May in a page 8 report by Efrayim Davidi and Moti Bassok, quotes Brigadier General Gabi Zohar, head of the West Bank Civil Administration as saying that "by the end of the year, the West Bank will have about 35,000 unemployed who had previously worked in Israel. The number of workers on the West Bank does not exceed 200,000." The general was addressing a seminar sponsored by America-Israel Chamber of Commerce in Tel Aviv.

The report says that "1991 data show that the GNP per person in the territories is about 15 percent that of Israel. The GNP per person in the Gaza Strip is only 11 percent of Israel's, while on the West Bank it is 18 percent. The importance of industry in the business sector in the territories is very low, 10 percent compared to Israel's 29 percent. Agriculture is a very important factor in the territories, according to the Treasury's Tzipi Gal-Yam. The dependence of the population of the territories on the Israeli economy is very high.

"The domestic product is about \$4 billion annually, of which \$1 billion comes from work in Israel and from the sale of products to the Israeli market. The closure harms that income. Personal income has been highly affected. The closure is worsening the economic plight, it is also damaging trade, and could in the future harm industry."

The report goes on to say that Gen. Zohar hinted that "there has been a change in government policy toward the Palestinian economy. In the year prior to the closure, permits were given for the establishment of some 200 plants, in contrast to earlier policy. In the decade preceding the Gulf war, only 40 percent of requested permits were granted. Some of these plants are already operating and even taking in more workers. Among the plants being set up are metal and cement plants, which will employ hundreds of workers."

Minister on Construction in Territories

TA1305100093 Tel Aviv AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 13 May 93 p 3

[Report by Betzal'el 'Amiqam]

[Text] "The construction of 3,812 housing units in the territories, excluding the 'Etzyon Bloc, continues. The construction of an additional 886 units has been canceled." This was stated yesterday by Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, in response to a Knesset query by Meretz Knesset Member Dedi Zucker regarding the state of housing in the territories.

In response to a question about the government's intention to purchase uninhabited apartments, the minister replied that the apartments constructed in the settlements set up by the ministry's Rural Building and New Settlements Administration were financed by the state and that the government will only buy apartments built by private construction companies.

SHAS Said To 'Undermine' Government Standing

TA1205135593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 May 93 p B1

[Editorial: "Avoiding a Real Solution"]

[Text] On Sunday, a few minutes before the letter of resignation tendered by Arye Der'i to the prime minister went into effect, a way was found to put off a decision and leave Der'i and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] in the government for another interim period. After SHAS rejected the prime minister's proposal for a portfolio exchange within the cabinet, it was agreed—at the last minute—that Ministers Shulamit Aloni and Der'i would deposit their portfolios with the prime minister for a week. Within this time, an effort would be made to come up with a government constellation that is tolerable to both sides.

Yitzhaq Rabin's offer to SHAS—termed final—was that Aloni be put at the head of a new ministry of culture and

communications, Amnon Rubinstein (a Shinuy member) would take over the Education Ministry, while Moshe Shahal would get the energy portfolio (instead of communications). This proposal was rejected in a late night meeting at Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef's home, on the grounds that it does not substantially change the situation as long as Aloni retains a position of influence over Israel's cultural life and control of the electronic media and the Education Ministry is headed by a Meretz member. It now turns out that Rabin's proposal to SHAS was not final after all, and that Der'i was more on the mark yesterday when he said: "It is final, I am quitting; probably that is what will happen."

Der'i did not quit, and the hiatus agreed upon will be used to look for a formula that will compensate Meretz for the loss of the education portfolio. We doubt that anything will come out of it. SHAS once again demonstrated the fact that it is a feeble and unreliable link in the coalition and its ability to undermine the government's standing whenever the opportunity arises, whether the reasons have to do with Minister Der'i personally or the moment its religious scholars become displeased with the peace negotiations.

Knesset legislation never took into consideration a situation where a coalition faction fails to fulfill its duty and absents itself from the plenum during a vote of confidence in a government in which it is still a member. There is no reason to believe that a compromise formulated within the next two weeks (the one-week respite, five days until the resignation is announced and another two days until it goes into effect) will be more stable than previous agreements with SHAS and will withstand the real tests that the government is supposed to give top priority.

The prime minister allowed the current political crisis to ripen and reach a climax before he became involved. Even then, he did that from a position of weakness in the face of the pressure exerted by the Council of Torah Scholars through its representative in the cabinet. It is hard to ascertain the real damage caused by the crisis, but it is clear that the more ministers change jobs to settle the crisis the greater the effect will be on the performance of the ministries and the continuity of government policy that a four-year term is supposed to provide.

This is the right opportunity to express categorical opposition to the creation of a culture and communications ministry, which would be totally unnecessary except for partisan reasons. Meretz members, who may have rejoiced at the possibility of exerting ministerial influence on cultural life and the media, should have the foresight to realize that such a ministry would become the coveted prize of any ideological movement seeking to use victory in the elections to impose its cultural concept on the public at large.

The SHAS crisis will continue to dominate the political agenda and create uncertainty for a few more weeks.

Nobody should wonder if it casts a pall on the government's performance and the peace talks.

'Terrorist' Sentenced to Two Life Terms

TA1305083693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] The Tel Aviv District Court this morning sentenced terrorist Ziyad Hilmi to two life terms and an additional 200 years imprisonment. Hilmi was convicted of murdering Natan 'Azarya and Gregoriy Abramov and attempting to murder another 10 people on Ha'aliya Street in Tel Aviv some two and a half months ago.

In handing down the sentence, the judges said that the existing punitive measures do not provide an answer to the grave phenomenon of stabbings and that perpetrators are not deterred by it. Complementary measures that would deter those contemplating similar deeds should be added to the existing punishments, the judges said. They stressed that the accused expressed no regret for his actions because he is hopeful that he will be released much sooner than expected.

Police To Investigate Armed Settlers

TA1305050493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal said yesterday that Attorney General Yosef Harish has instructed him to investigate all armed Jewish settlers appearing on television who had been making antagonistic statements against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and against the Knesset.

Qol Yisra'el's reporter in the Knesset says the police minister was responding to a parliamentary motion on the agenda submitted by Labor Knesset Member Efrayim Sne. Sne said in his motion that declarations or provocations by the settlers against the IDF mark the beginnings of fascism.

Police Minister Shahal emphasized that the police would go forward with great determination against every person who incited against the rule of law.

1993 Population, Growth Statistics Released

TA1205161193 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 May 93 p 4

[ITIM report]

[Text] In early 1993 Israel's population amounted to approximately 5.2 million people, of which approximately 4.240 million or 81.8 percent are Jews, and some 944,000 non-Jews.

In the same period the Arab population in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip numbered approximately

1.7 million people. The Jewish population in the territories stood at approximately 125,000 scattered over 133 settlements.

These figures and others appear in a new pamphlet, "Israel—Facts and Figures, 1993," issued by the Israel Information Center's publication service.

According to the pamphlet the Jewish population abroad numbers approximately 8.75 million people at present.

Some 1.2 million people live in the big cities (Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa), which is approximately 28 percent of the country's population. Jerusalem is the largest city both in terms of population and territory. Since 1967 its annual growth rate was higher than the national average, at times by as much as two times. This trend has ended after the last aliya wave, which started during 1990.

The following figures relate to the Israeli economy:

—The Israeli economy's annual national product growth is the highest in the world: 5.4 percent in 1990, 5.9 percent in 1991, and 5.8 percent in 1992. This growth

stems from a combination of an increase in population caused by the aliya and a relative abundance of capital imports.

—Israel's foreign debt has grown from \$0.5 billion in 1957 to a record high of \$26 billion in 1987. Since then it has decreased and in early 1993 stood at \$23.4 billion.

—The largest component in the 1993 state budget is made up of debt repayments both in Israel and abroad, to the tune of 29.2 percent of the budget. The present security consumption reaches approximately 18.3 percent of the budget, whereas approximately one fourth of the budget is slated for social services.

—During 1992 there has been a significant improvement in the number of tourists visiting Israel. Approximately 1.8 million tourists arrived, a record number in Israel's history. State revenues from tourism amounted to approximately \$1.9 billion, which amounts to approximately one fourth of services exports.

King Addresses Citizens in Southern al-Shunah

*JN1205162293 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600
GMT 12 May 93*

[Text] In a speech his majesty delivered at the ceremonial reception by the families of the southern al-Shunah, the king assured the citizens there of following up all possible procedures that would meet their satisfaction. His majesty the king asserted that the utmost goal he wishes to see fulfilled is for the generations to come to acknowledge that we have carried out our responsibilities honestly and were, with God's help, soldiers of truth.

Agreement To Begin Amman-Tehran Flights Signed

*JN1205194793 Amman Jordan Television Network in
English 1900 GMT 12 May 93*

[Text] Jordan and Iran have signed an aviation agreement to start direct flights between the two countries. Civil Aviation Authority Director General Ahmad Juwaybir and visiting Iranian Deputy Transport Minister and Civil Aviation Chief Mohammad Nijrian signed minutes of a meeting in Amman today.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport 'Ali Suhaymat and the Iranian delegation discussed civil aviation cooperation. Mr. Suhaymat said, the agreement to launch regular flights between Amman and Tehran during the summer will enhance cultural and touristic cooperation. He said Jordan would offer technical aviation assistance through specialized centers of the Civil Aviation Authority and Royal Jordanian.

Premier Outlines Government's Priorities

PM1205132593 London AL-WASAT in Arabic
10-16 May 93 pp 4, 5

[Unattributed interview with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in Abu-Dhabi; date not given]

[Text] [AL-WASAT] What are the results of your visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]?

[Al-Hariri] Visits between the Arab states produce good results. The question is how great those results are. The future will judge. We were without doubt pleased with what we heard from the UAE officials. They were reassured about the situation in Lebanon. We sensed love for Lebanon and the Lebanese from the UAE and especially Shaykh Zayid. We are optimistic about the future.

[AL-WASAT] On the basis of your visits to the Arab states and your contacts with foreign states, do you detect any seriousness about creating a fund for the reconstruction of Lebanon?

[Al-Hariri] We do not discuss the creation of a fund for the reconstruction of Lebanon but we discuss everything to do with bilateral relations and the restoration of confidence in the country. We always felt that the officials in the states we visited liked to inquire about the situation in Lebanon and we felt that there was interest and that confidence in Lebanon was returning. The question of setting up a fund for the reconstruction of Lebanon is not one of the government's main objectives but it is one of the factors that would help the country to stand on its own feet. There are numerous issues between Lebanon and the Arab states and between Lebanon and non-Arab states. These are the issues that we try to discuss with officials on our visits with the aim of enhancing relations. There are 40,000 Lebanese in the UAE. They are a wealth which must be preserved, as must their links with Lebanon. Thousands of UAE citizens would like to visit Lebanon on summer vacations or for investment purposes. That is an essential aspect of our moves in the Arab states.

[AL-WASAT] What are the Lebanese Government's priorities for the future?

[Al-Hariri] The state has its priorities. As we said before, there are two things. The first is that the state should secure the infrastructure, including water, electricity, telephone communication, ports, hospitals, schools, and housing. That would reflect positively on the issue of the evacuees' return to their homes. When the state accomplishes these things or begins to do so, the private sector surges ahead of it and does not lag behind it. The private sector has indeed been ahead of the government in work revival. Beirut is now a workshop.

[AL-WASAT] What has so far been accomplished as far as Lebanon's reconstruction is concerned, and what part does foreign aid play in that?

[Al-Hariri] We have started the reconstruction using the available aid, Arab funds, easy loans, and commercial loans.

[AL-WASAT] What, in your view, will be the cost of reconstruction?

[Al-Hariri] We have had some general estimates. The initial estimate by the state's institutions is being prepared and will be submitted to the cabinet and the Chamber of Deputies. It is in the region of \$10 billion on the basis of current prices and \$12 billion on the basis of prices after 10 years. I say that because we expect to get the funding over a period of 10 years. Because of Lebanon's absorption capacity we might complete the reconstruction in less than 10 years if the funds are available. Lebanon is capable of repaying the loans. We believe that a part of this sum should be in the form of aid, another part in easy loans, and the last part in commercial loans. Our task is to try to get as much as possible in aid and easy loans and as little as possible in commercial loans. Some of the sums could be recovered through various projects. The sums we spend on the port, for instance, could be regenerated from the port's revenue later on. The same applies to electricity and telephones, two sectors which could make a profit; but there are sectors where sums spent cannot be regenerated, such as money spent on the environment, where the returns would be indirect. When the beaches are clean and the water is clear, tourism improves and the yield improves.

[AL-WASAT] Do you still intend to seek exceptional powers from the Chamber of Deputies?

[Al-Hariri] It is not a question of exceptional powers or no exceptional powers. The Lebanese people want the government to provide better services and a better life for them. That requires cooperation between the Chamber of Deputies and the government. That is what we call for. The form of that cooperation is unimportant at this point. What matters is that "we should eat grapes, not kill the watchman." What matters is the outcome, not the form of cooperation.

[AL-WASAT] To what extent can we now speak of accord and harmony among the state's three chief officers?

[Al-Hariri] We are very harmonious. Do you doubt that? This is a serious matter. In the past and before the al-Ta'if agreement, there were alarming stories about differences among the three because they differed on major issues such as the powers of the president of the republic, relations with Syria, arming the forces, economic policy, security policy, and the negotiations—all fundamental issues. Now the three leaders are in agreement on these issues. There are no differences there. The differences now are over day-to-day matters such as the employment of an individual. The president, the Chamber of Deputies speaker, and I are in agreement on the fundamental issues and on a large number of secondary issues, but that does not mean that there are no

differences of opinion regarding certain matters. That is a natural thing and we should be realistic. What matters is that there is no disagreement between the president, the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, and myself on fundamental issues. All three are in agreement regarding the army and its armament, the security forces, the economic and foreign policies, the negotiations, and relations with Syria. There is not a difference in a thousand.

[AL-WASAT] What is your government doing for southern Lebanon?

[Al-Hariri] We are doing everything we can in the circumstances and within our means. We are trying to help the people of the south stand fast, but whatever we do cannot be enough because of the shelling, displacement, and injustice to which they are subjected by Israel. Meanwhile, we have joined the negotiations in order to achieve a solution that would free the Lebanese territory from Israeli occupation and preserve our independence and dignity.

[AL-WASAT] Before going to the ninth round of negotiations, did you receive any guarantees from the United States or any other party?

[Al-Hariri] We received guarantees from the United States. Our participation in the negotiations is actually a part of our efforts to liberate the south. We are convinced that Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories is the only solution for the region. That would lead to a just and comprehensive solution of all the region's problems. That is our conviction and the conviction of the Arab leaders. So we acted and proceeded on that basis. Of course, the Americans are saying good things and making promises, but it is difficult to judge matters at the start. Because we believe in the logic of peace, we must give peace a chance.

[AL-WASAT] Israel is talking about disarming the Lebanese resistance as a condition of discussing withdrawal from the south. How do you view that?

[Al-Hariri] They are not talking about that any more. The question now is: Who is the cause of the current situation? You cannot ask someone whose territory is occupied to hand over his weapon. That is illogical.

Foreign Minister on Israeli Document, Reply

Refuses To Give Deputies Text

NC1205130993 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic* 1115 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] The Foreign Relations Committee meeting ended a short time ago. Our correspondent reports that some deputies raised the question of a document published by AL-SAFIR. Foreign Minister Buwayz explained that the text is inaccurate and contains additions and cuts, and he

refused to give the deputies the text of the document. He noted that the document refers to a military committee within a political context.

Comments on Significance of Proposal

NC1205171293 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic* 1530 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Former Prime Minister Amin al-Hafiz, who chaired the meeting of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Affairs Committee today, said the committee found that the government, in its reply to the Israeli proposal, observed the constant principles concerning Resolution 425, a programmed Israeli withdrawal, and the release of the Lebanese prisoners. He said:

[Begin al-Hafiz recording] The discussions centered on the paper the government received from the Israelis and the Lebanese reply to it. A lengthy debate was held, with the colleagues stressing the need to thoroughly examine the documents presented by Israel to avoid tricks and traps, which all negotiators use, especially Israel, which is known for such tactics. We reviewed these traps and found that the objectives so far are neither clear nor reassuring. But to demonstrate our good intentions and willingness to continue the negotiations, we preferred to reply to the Israeli document, especially the vague points to which his excellency the foreign minister referred. We asked for clarification based on the constants on which neither the Lebanese Government nor the Chamber of Deputies can budge—Resolution 425, a timetable for Israeli withdrawal in accordance with this resolution, and the release of the Lebanese prisoners in Israeli prisons. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz attended the committee meeting. He said the Israeli paper includes some vague signs, but for the first time it refers to Security Council Resolution 425, although this reference was approved only as a Lebanese wish. Minister Buwayz explained that the Israeli document links the implementation of Resolution 425 regarding withdrawal with a comprehensive peace process. If we consider this a final paper, he said, it is unacceptable, but if we consider it a negotiatory paper, that is a different story.

Lebanese Demands Aired

NC1205201893 *Cairo MENA in Arabic* 1940 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said Egypt's role is essential for the success of the Arab- Israeli peace negotiations in Washington, even though it is not directly involved.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published tomorrow, Buwayz said Egypt is a principal party, because it is concerned with the comprehensive solution and the Palestinian issue. He stressed that Egypt constitutes a strategic Arab layer and its relations with the United States and Israel enable it to play an important

role. He said Egypt knows more than others what the Arabs can accept and what they cannot.

The Lebanese foreign minister stated that achieving a settlement between any Arab party and Israel does not mean a final agreement on the comprehensive peace. He noted that the Arab parties have agreed that each prepare a mechanism for solving its own problems with Israel, but must wait for the comprehensive solution so as to sign a comprehensive peace agreement simultaneously.

Buwayz said the Israeli proposal presented to the Lebanese delegation to the peace negotiations reflected a measure of progress, but some aspects of it were vague, hence the Lebanese delegation's reply asking that this vagueness be clarified while highlighting several fundamental constants.

The Lebanese foreign minister went on: For the first time, the Israeli negotiator mentioned Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon in implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, which also stipulates that peace does not require the Israeli Army to stay in the south. He added that the Israeli proposal included three ideas new to the Israeli stance. The first was proposed for the first time, but was vague, incomplete, and ambiguous. The second concerned ideas acceptable to the Lebanese side and the third was rejected. This was the basis on which the Lebanese reply dealt with them, demanded clarification, the deletion of the unacceptable ideas, and stressed the importance of the ideas omitted from the proposal.

Buwayz said the Lebanese reply to the Israeli proposal included a demand for a timetable or an arrangement for achieving the acceptable ideas. He added that Lebanon demands Israel's complete withdrawal from Lebanese territory and a declaration of its acceptance of this principle. He went on: In light of this declaration by Israel, Lebanon is ready to discuss forming a military committee whose task will be to program the withdrawal. When the military committee starts its work, the political committee will also start its work and discuss the general issue—the Arab-Israeli conflict—so as to establish peace.

Buwayz stated: The Israeli proposal included a reference to a complete withdrawal from all the occupied territories in south Lebanon and even talked about "territories," which again takes us to the problem of the English text of Resolution 242. It also referred to this question as if it is a Lebanese demand not binding on Israel, while it clearly expounded the Israeli demand of guaranteeing security for "the northern borders" through security arrangements that end with a peace treaty.

He said the essential problem between Lebanon and Israel, one that basically focuses on solving the situation in the south, lies in Lebanon demanding that withdrawal from the south in line with Resolution 425 be separated from the peace process, which is based on Security Council Resolution 242.

Further Reportage on AL-SAFIR Closure, Reactions

AL-SAFIR Owner To Continue Publication

NC1205152493 Paris AFP in English 1416 GMT
12 May 93

[Text] Beirut, May 12 (AFP)—The Lebanese Government closed the opposition daily AL-SAFIR for seven days starting Wednesday for publishing the alleged text of an Israeli plan for a possible withdrawal from Lebanon.

The state prosecutor charged that the daily had published "for no legal reasons a document which, in the interest of the state, should have remained secret," a spokesman for AL-SAFIR said quoting the official notice of closure.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz told reporters the published document was an "incorrect translation" of the original and a fake.

AL-SAFIR owner and editor-in-chief Talal Salman dismissed the government's closure order and said publication of the document was necessary to inform Arabs and Lebanese of "what's going on" at the peace talks in Washington.

The paper would defy the order and continue to publish, Yasir Ni'mah, another AL-SAFIR official, told AFP.

An Arabic-language version of the alleged text published Tuesday by AL-SAFIR underlined Israel's possible pull-out from south Lebanon, where it controls a "security zone" along the border.

Israel set up the zone in 1985 to protect northern Israel, three years after it invaded Lebanon to drive out the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Lebanon has acknowledged receiving a document last week from Israel, at the Middle East peace talks in Washington, outlining Israel's possible withdrawal from south Lebanon.

The Beirut press said Israel's chief negotiator with Lebanon, Uri Lubrani, protested the publication of the document in AL-SAFIR.

According to AL-SAFIR, Israel proposes the setting up of a joint military committee "made up exclusively of senior officers and experts to examine all the security problems."

The committee would also submit proposals to be discussed at the bilateral negotiations, AL-SAFIR reported.

AL-SAFIR Appears Under New Name

NC1305062993 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] The newspaper AL-SAFIR appeared today, but with a new name, BAYRUT AL-MASA' [Evening

Beirut), and a new publisher. BAYRUT AL-MASA' cited official U.S. sources and Lebanese sources concerned with the peace talks as denying that the United States had informed the Lebanese delegation of its concern over AL-SAFIR's publishing of the Israeli proposal.

AL-ANWAR has quoted Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri as saying that the suspension of AL-SAFIR was in accordance with the law and not an act of suppression of press freedom. He added: If the current law is unfair, let the Chamber of Deputies amend it. We implement, not invent, the law. We are not against opposition, but against violation of the law. He added: We ask the press to realize the sensitive stage and the difficult and delicate negotiations we are going through. Had we harbored any premeditated ill will against AL-SAFIR, we would have suspended it before, particularly when it repeatedly criticized Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Information Minister Michel Samahah has pointed out that the cabinet discussed the suspension of AL-SAFIR, noting that the matter is now in the hands of the judiciary. He noted that the cabinet hoped that the judiciary would expedite a decision on the matter.

Suspension Called 'Political Decision'

NC1305095393 *Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 May 93*

[Telephone interview with AL-SAFIR Chief Editor Talal Salman in Beirut by unidentified radio correspondent on 12 May—recorded]

[Text] [Salman] First of all we were surprised, as you were, by the decision. Unfortunately, we heard it on the radio before we were officially informed of it. I do not know if the Public Attorney also heard it over the radio and made his decision accordingly. I believe the Public Attorney is, as we are, helpless in this regard. I believe that political quarters asked him to do it, and it seems that he had to do what he did.

[Correspondent] Do you think the Israeli complaint is the reason for the decision or there are other reasons?

[Salman] Apparently, at least on the face of it, the only reason is the Israeli protest. We are left with no choice but to say that it was either the Israeli protest or it was a political move. I do not believe that it was a judicial decision, but a political decision.

[Correspondent] A political decision by whom, exactly?

[Salman] Usually in our country the government is responsible for policy-making. It seems that the government's intelligence, prudence, wisdom, cunning, and eagerness to ensure democracy and freedom are such that whenever Lubrani [head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with the Lebanese] sneezes, the government closes down a newspaper.

[Correspondent] What measures do you plan to take?

[Salman] We will do what we can, with the help of the great solidarity with us shown by our colleagues. We have a number of licenses at our disposal and so AL-SAFIR will be republished.

[Correspondent] So could we say that AL-SAFIR will appear tomorrow?

[Salman] Yes of course; tomorrow, the day after, and everyday. Most probably, tomorrow it will appear under the name BAYRUT AL-MASA' [Evening Beirut].

[Correspondent] BAYRUT AL-MASA'?

[Salman] Yes.

[Correspondent] What about the decision, are you going to appeal it?

[Salman] It is a decision made by the public prosecutor. Judging by reports available to us, I believe that the government itself is divided, confused, and does not know what to do.

[Correspondent] What do you think of the restrictions against freedoms?

[Salman] Until now, we thought they were rumors, but unfortunately, the government, through its shortsightedness and intolerance, is confirming that these are not rumors, but actual deeds. I believe no government anywhere in the world has ever won a battle against freedom or against the press.

[Correspondent] So you believe this is a battle against freedom and the press?

[Salman] We believe it is a battle against the entire press and against freedoms throughout Lebanon. I believe our people are civilized enough and care enough about their democracy and freedom of expression to prevent such irregular, arbitrary, and unacceptable measures.

[Correspondent] Good luck; peace be upon you.

[Salman] Thank you; peace be upon you.

Hizballah: 'Violation of Press Freedom'

NC1305092993 *Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 May 93*

[Text] Reactions to the decision to close down AL-SAFIR continue. Most important among these reactions was the statement issued by Hizballah denouncing the violation of press freedom. The statement said: The Lebanese authorities have surprised everybody with its decision to close down the honorable newspaper, thus slapping democracy and freedom in this country in the face and introducing a reactionary concept that for 15 years the Lebanese people have paid dearly to eliminate. The statement added: What is even more serious is the excuse put forth by the regime which it was not ashamed to announce; namely, leaking the Israeli document submitted by the Zionist negotiating delegation. It is as if

journalism, in the eyes of the state and the officials, is supposed to cover up the truth, put up a smoke screen, and hide the facts from the Lebanese people in order to be acceptable, satisfactory, and suitable for expressing the views of the rich and the people who sell out their homeland.

The statement noted that the government, which committed a grave crime by participating and remaining in the infamous talks with the Zionist enemy and agreed—with such speed—to change its convictions regarding the so-called Resolution 425, should have stood up with full courage to expose the ploys and dangers of the Zionists and the falsehood of their allegations before the Lebanese parliament and all the Lebanese people whom it claims to be representing. It should have openly declared that it is backing down from its mistake and informed everyone of the facts of the matter rather than embark on a policy of mouth-gagging and suppression of honest writers in this injured homeland.

The statement warned against continuing this repressive policy against the media, adding that decisions and measures of this type constitute an explicit and clear-cut response to the Zionists' desires and an act of submission to their orders. In conclusion, the Hizballah statement appealed to the Lebanese Press Association to firmly confront such tendencies and urged all honest forces to stand firmly in the face of this organized campaign against the freedom of expression.

Army Continues Closure of Illegal Ports

NC1205120693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Continuing the process of closing illegal ports in the north and in all of Lebanon, the north intelligence branch of the Lebanese Army Engineering Corps at 1000 [0700 GMT] today closed down a port between al-Mina and al-Tabbanah, known as the Tripoli Orchard's Third Alleyway, using bulldozers and mines.

The plan will be continued to cover all illegal ports on the northern coast, including ports in al-Minyah and 'Akkar. Furthermore, the army units will close illegal shops that sell radios.

Al-Rantisi Says Deportees Reject Return

NC1305114993 Paris AFP in English 1059 GMT 13 May 93

[Excerpt] Marj al-Zuhur, Lebanon, May 13 (AFP)—The 25 deportees on a new Israeli list of Palestinians allowed to return from Lebanon have rejected the offer, a spokesman said Thursday [13 May].

'Ab-dal-'Aziz al-Rantisi of the Muslim fundamentalist movement Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] told reporters that all 396 deportees stranded in south Lebanon for the last five months were sticking by a pledge not to accept any phased return.

"The 25, like the 101 before them, refuse to go back and are committed to a collective return as laid down by U.N. Security Council Resolution 799," he said at the deportees' camp of Marj al-Zuhur.

The announcement came after Israeli radio read out the list of 25 names. [passage omitted]

Israeli-SLA Patrol Searches Homes

NC1205135893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] A joint Israeli-South Lebanese Army foot patrol this afternoon advanced from positions on 'Ali al-Tahir hill toward the eastern quarters of Kafr Tibnit. After searching houses, the force interrogated citizens before releasing them and returning to base.

Resistance Fires Rockets at Occupied Territories

NC1305112893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] The resistance fired six Katyusha rockets at the occupied territories from Majdal Silm at 1000 today. The rockets fell on the outskirts of Hulah village, about 800 meters from the wire fence which marks the international border between Lebanon and Palestine [Israel]. No casualties have been reported.

Iraqi Currency Withdrawal Deemed 'Act of Piracy'

JN1205182793 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 9 May 93 p 8

["Opinion" column by Fu'ad Mardud: "Battle of the Iraqi Dinar"]

[Text] What the Jordanians are nowadays calling "the battle of the Iraqi dinar"—a battle triggered by the Baghdad government's withdrawal from circulation of a certain denomination of the Iraqi currency—is an act of piracy that will have serious financial and political consequences for many of those who had believed that there existed in Baghdad a state, institutions, and a government in the real sense of government, and thus helped it in times of hardship, either out of Arab gallantry and chivalry or in hopes of making considerable profit.

Before and during the Gulf war, the Baghdad government, acting in a conspiratorial spirit, issued hundreds of billions of dinars in high denominations. It asked Swiss financial institutions, moreover, to print large numbers of 25-dinar bills so as to instill a sense of confidence in the hearts of those dealing with the currency. Afterward, the Baghdad government used this bill to buy food, medicine, arms, and foreign currency. Amman, after Baghdad, was the main area where this denomination abounded. Many people in Jordan and the Gulf fell for the trick and started to hoard millions of these dinars, hoping their value would increase all of a sudden, after the Iraqi dinar's value had already plummeted more than 400 percent. In the final act of the play, the Baghdad government, in an unprecedented move, annulled in cold blood the savings of scores of people out of its reach under the pretext of "smuggling the dinar abroad," ignoring the tens of billions of this currency it paid for its imports of food, medicine, and other goods, through Jordan—Iraq's only link with the outside world.

Yes, the Iraqi move was surprising. But it came as a real surprise only to a few people who once believed that there existed in Baghdad a government which respects its promises and credibility, as well as other state institutions. The move also surprised some official Jordanian institutions which had traded in the Iraqi dinar, especially the Swiss version.

When it took this measure, the Baghdad government was not seeking to preserve the credibility of the Iraqi state or to protect the interests of the Iraqi people. Rather, it was acting on the logic of illegal profiteering, which is very close to piracy, and seeking to punish Jordan, which recently indicated it was reconsidering its relationship with Iraq, especially after King Husayn's call on the Iraqi president to step down and allow the Iraqi people to choose their leadership freely.

What supports this view is Baghdad's sudden halt of oil shipments to Jordan, despite the fact that this oil is being

paid for in U.S. dollars, or by goods, food, and medicine which Jordanians had paid for in U.S. dollars.

It is a game which targeted "friends" before enemies. The first loser is, of course, the Arab citizen.

No Grounds for Optimism at Peace Talks Seen

JN1305082993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 13 May 93

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Conclusion of the Ninth Round of Talks," AL-BA'TH editorial says: It will be difficult for the ninth round of talks, due to end today, to produce any results even though it was extended for a third week and despite the great preparations made for it. The Israelis have used the duration of this round, as well as the duration of the past eight rounds, in more than 100 sessions, to discuss nonbasic issues, and to merely mark time without taking a single step toward the objective of the peace process; namely, the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

AL-BA'TH adds: Those who followed the progress of the ninth round of talks and heard the daily statements made after each session by representatives of the parties concerned found that the Israeli side evaded discussion of substance, chose to raise nonbasic issues, and attempted to achieve by way of maneuvering, deception, and booby trapping what Israel has failed to achieve by war, invasion, and crimes in the occupied territories.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: The Rabin government, which allowed the ninth round to become bogged down in futile discussions, verbal exchanges and acrobatics, is the same government which tried, in the period between the eighth and ninth rounds, to create the conditions and atmosphere to provoke the Arabs into boycotting the talks so that it could hold them responsible before world public opinion for the collapse of the peace process.

AL-BA'TH elaborates, saying: Observers who followed the progress of the ninth round have noted that the Israeli delegations on all four tracks of negotiations have not changed their deceptive tactics, nor their objective, which is to prevent the negotiations from proceeding according to the agreed bases.

The newspaper adds: In contrast, the Arab position has been positive, rational, and cooperative. This position is based on a true desire for peace, and also on a willingness to attempt to reach the agreed objectives of the peace process.

Concluding, the paper says: Within hours, the ninth round will be a thing of the past, joining the past eight round of talks. It will be over. Thereafter, attention will be focused on the 10th round of talks, that is, if such a round materializes. We Arabs, as His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad says, have always been working for peace, advocating peace, and cooperating to achieve a

just and comprehensive peace. We will continue to pursue this policy to achieve this objective.

AL-THAWRAH newspaper addresses the same issue, saying: In light of the progress of the ninth round of the Middle East peace talks, which will end in Washington today, it is difficult for observers to detect any significant positive results yielded by the talks—results that could create an atmosphere of optimism or prompt people to believe that this round of talks could achieve during its last hours what it has failed to achieve throughout the past three weeks.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Despite the statements made prior to the start of this round on basic changes in the Israeli position, it has become clear through the progress of the negotiations that the Rabin government has not changed any of its provocative and hateful methods.

The paper goes on to say: Yesterday, Warren Christopher said that he is very optimistic over the possible achievement of tangible successes during the ninth round of talks. Undoubtedly, all those eager to see peace efforts succeed would like to see grounds for this optimism. A quick review of developments since the peace process was launched in Madrid indicates that after nine rounds of talks, held under two Israeli governments, no real progress has been made—progress that could have given rise to even slim hopes.

Concluding, the paper says: We can safely say that the gap between the Arab and Israeli positions is still very wide. This gap cannot be bridged unless the Israel abandons its intransigent positions and clearly declares its full commitment to all the principles and bases required to make peace possible. Failing this, there will be no room for optimism. Indeed, it will be difficult to talk of any progress in the talks.

Palestine Broadcast Justifies Death of Israeli Lawyer

JN1205110193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 May 93

[From the Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] AL-TALA'T, mouthpiece of the al-Sa'iqa organization and the PLO, has published an article under the headline "Israeli Lawyer Feinberg." In this article, the magazine says: The Palestinian Arab strugglers in the Gaza Strip recently executed an Israeli named Feinberg. Israel exploited his being a lawyer to depict him as an innocent man, particularly to the quarters that do not know that Israel's judges and most of its lawyers should stand trial as war criminals.

Can we forget that the so-called Israeli High Court of Justice is nothing more than a rubber stamp in Rabin's hands, or for that matter in Shamir's hands? Didn't this so-called Israeli High Court of Justice endorsed the crime of deportation of the 420 Palestinian Arab strugglers in less than 24 hours, not to mention that Rabin

had admonished the members of this high court because they tarried, according to him, in endorsing the crime of transfer? [preceding word in English] The Lebanese Government adopted a firm stand on Israel's crime when it decided not to receive the Palestinian deportees, thus leaving Israel to be held fully responsible for the deportation before international legitimacy, the United Nations, international public opinion, and all the peoples in the world. This brought about a worldwide wave of support for the Palestinian Arab deportees and the Palestinian Arab struggle.

After all this, Israel claims that it applies the principle of the separation of the various branches of power. How can the Israeli judiciary be independent so long as it remains a rubber stamp in the hands of the Israeli Government?

In any case, there is nothing strange in this. Everyone in Israel, be they individuals or rulers, judges or lawyers, are racists who wish to exterminate the Arabs. Haven't the Palestinian Arab strugglers repeatedly refused the services of Israeli lawyers the Israeli government appointed to defend them because these lawyers harbored intentions toward the Palestinian strugglers that are more criminal than the crimes of the interrogators of the Shin Bet and Mosad who tortured them? Then, Israeli lawyer Feinberg who was killed by the Arabs in the Gaza Strip was one of those shameless Israeli lawyers. This is in general terms. But if we study the details, we will discover that this Israeli lawyer was one of the arms of the Israeli internal revenue octopus which squeezes the remnants of the Palestinian Arab economy and consequently squeezes the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied homeland to the point of starvation.

Therefore, he is an Israeli taxation lawyer. How can we forget that a Palestinian Arab citizen recently offered his kidney for sale to settle the unjust taxes Israel had imposed on him? This is how most of the Israeli tax lawyers operate.

However, it seems that Feinberg in particular committed serious tax crimes against our entire Palestinian Arab people. It suffices to note here Israel's conspiracy to annex the Palestinian economy to the Israeli economy to realize what crimes Feinberg and his likes commit.

Feinberg has been described as an Israeli taxation lawyer who works in an EEC-financed development agency in the Gaza Strip. Who has heard about this agency? No one, most probably. This means that Feinberg and his likes have cancelled this agency, have completely paralyzed it, and have even blocked the road to the modest European contributions for the revitalization of the economy of the occupied homeland. This means that this Israeli lawyer is directly responsible for driving around one million Palestinians to below the poverty line, and even to the point of starvation. We can note here that the citrus produce that was exported directly to Europe by the Palestinian farmers in the Gaza Strip following the intervention of the EEC had been left to rot in the

warehouses of the ports in occupied Palestine. As a result of this, the Palestinian people, neither benefited from the limited funds Europe had allocated for development nor from their agricultural produce which should have been exported to Europe but which Israel had obstructed, perhaps under the pretext of the collection of taxes which is the responsibility of Israeli lawyer Feinberg.

What we have said so far is enough to convict Israeli lawyer Feinberg of the charge of starving the children, young people, and elders of Palestine, and of denying

them all means of subsistence opportunities in implementation of Israel's conspiracy to empty Palestine of its legitimate people, the Palestinian Arab people.

While Feinberg did not open fire on the sons of the Palestinian Arab people, he and his like have committed the crime of slowly killing our people by resorting to the policy of unemployment and starvation against our Palestinian Arab people. Therefore, Israeli lawyer Feinberg deserves the just punishment that the Palestinian Arab resistance passed on him as a criminal who has committed war, occupation, and colonialist settlement crimes against the Palestinian Arab people.

Afghanistan

Dostam, Mas'ud Join Forces in 'Fierce' Battle

BK1205110493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1052 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Kabul, May 12 (AFP)—Infantry and tanks belonging to the former pro-communist northern Uzbek warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostam joined sides with Afghan Defence Ministry forces in a fierce battle in southern Kabul Wednesday.

After a severe heavy artillery bombardment, the combined forces of Dostam and Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud attacked a major intersection guarded by pro-Iranian rebel Shiite faction guerrillas.

The reason for Dostam's participation in the attack was unclear but mujahedin said three of his generals were recently kidnapped by the Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party] faction, and the Uzbek warlord wanted revenge.

Dostam, whose late-1991 defection to Mas'ud was the catalyst for the fall of the Moscow-backed Afghan communist regime, stayed neutral in the previous round of mujahedin factional fighting, which after seven bloody weeks ended in a stalemate.

Further Details on Fighting

BK1205112293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1112 GMT 12 May 93

[By Terence White]

[Excerpts] Kabul, May 12 (AFP)—Infantry and tanks belonging to the former pro-communist northern Uzbek warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostam joined sides with Afghan Defence Ministry forces in a fierce battle in southern Kabul Wednesday. [passage omitted]

By openly joining sides with the Defence Ministry, after months of negotiation, Dostam is expected to swing the military balance in Kabul in final favour of Mas'ud.

The capture of the Dehmazang Square intersection and its adjacent cinema was soon followed by the capture of the nearby former Russian Cultural Centre and the Polish Embassy.

Government jets joined the battle at midday and unconfirmed reports from Mas'ud's men suggested that the Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party]-occupied Soviet Embassy complex, a short distance down the embattled southern Darulaman road, was also under attack.

"Our plan is to advance to south Kabul and link up with government units garrisoned there," said Mas'ud's operational commander Hussein.

However stiff resistance by Wahdat gunners dug-in along the road leading to the south of the city held up the

advance of six of Dostam's tanks, which were to support the planned infantry assault.

Anti-tank rockets and mortar bombs fired by Wahdat cascaded around the Traffic Department building at Dehmazang where Mas'ud and Dostam had set up their base, and several government wounded were carried from the battlefield.

The four-kilometre (2.4 mile) long avenue which links Dehmazang with Dostam and Mas'ud posts on the extreme southern outskirts of Kabul came under heavy bombardment Tuesday from another anti-Mas'ud faction, Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party].

The Hezb leader and prime minister-designate, Golboddin Hekmatyar, was allied with Wahdat during the inconclusive January-February fighting.

The resistance put up by the Wahdat cost the combined Dostam-Mas'ud forces seven hours to capture approximately 50 meters (yards) of the road, but units of Dostam's men could be seen waiting in reserve.

71 Dead; PRC Embassy on Fire

LD1205170993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] As a result of more than 152 rockets striking the residential areas of the city of Kabul, 71 of our innocent and defenseless compatriots were martyred and (?227) others were injured. A responsible security source told the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military correspondent that forces of Hezb-e Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party] and Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] fired [words indistinct] rockets from the westerly and south-westerly direction into Kabul's residential areas. Today's rockets landed in Wards 6, 5, 4, 10 and 11 of Kabul where on top of heavy loss of life, they caused much material damage too. Most of today's injured were released after receiving treatment in the hospitals. The source said: As a result of the rocket attack by Hezb-e Wahdat and Hezb-e Eslami 17 dwellings were destroyed in Wards 4 and 11 and [word indistinct] and four vehicles caught fire. The Embassy of China is among the places that caught fire.

Iranian Energy Delegation Views Cooperation

LD1205190093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] An expert delegation from our country's Energy Ministry, who is currently in Afghanistan, visited that country's power and chemical fertilizer plants in the city of Mazar Sharif. The delegation then met officials of those plants and discussed the needs of Afghanistan's power plants and meeting those requirements in exchange for chemical fertilizers. Our country's Energy Ministry delegation announced its readiness for training of the expert personnel required by that country's power plants.

Bangladesh

Opposition Strike Ends Without Major Incidents

BK1305073693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0719 GMT
13 May 93

[Text] Dhaka, May 13 (AFP)—A nationwide general strike called by Bangladesh's 14 opposition parties Thursday demanding the trial of a fundamentalist leader ended without any major incidents, witnesses and sources said. Several people were injured in downtown Dhaka when unidentified people hurled crude bombs at picketers, who then went on a brief rampage, witnesses said, adding that police used batons to disperse the crowd.

In several other parts of the capital minor clashes were reported and police used tear gas near the volatile Dhaka University campus to quell demonstrations. There were no reports of violence from southeastern and southern Chittagong and Khulna port cities, but residents said a complete strike was enforced by activists. A family of three were injured in a bomb attack in Chittagong, police said.

The strike was called by the opposition, including the Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed, to demand the trial of Golam Azam, the chief of the Muslim fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami, and to protest alleged government repression of their supporters.

They accuse Azam of committing crimes during Bangladesh's 1971 war of independence from Pakistan.

Wajed in a statement Thursday said "the government had been resorting to repressive measures in an autocratic manner to curb the democratic rights to strike and hold rallies."

"People will not tolerate any conspiracy against the liberation war and the pro-liberation forces will not remain silent," she warned.

A separate, 72-hour nationwide labour strike to demand wage hikes and benefits also ended Thursday. Most public and private sector factories remained shut during the stoppage, union sources said.

In Dhaka, witnesses said several government ministers were escorted to their offices under police guard, while security was tightened for major government offices.

In major cities truckloads of riot police, paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Ansar militias patrolled the streets or were posted at usual trouble spots. Shops, schools and most offices were closed and except for pedicabs and a few three-wheeler taxis all other vehicles remained off the streets.

Official sources said train services were uninterrupted, but several domestic flights of the national flag carrier Biman were cancelled and international services delayed.

Although pedicabs were kept out of the strike, in downtown Purana Paltan and Motijheel areas picketers

chased three wheelers, witnesses said, adding that in some cases passengers were forced to walk to their destinations.

The opposition has been claiming that Zia's government was "harassing" their supporters, but the government denies the allegations.

The campaign started last year, when Azam was declared Jamaat chief. The opposition wants him tried by a special court under the 1973 International Crimes Tribunal Act.

Azam, 71, a Bangladeshi by birth, went to Pakistan before the 1971 war ended and was stripped of his citizenship in 1973. He returned in 1978 with a Pakistani passport and appealed for his citizenship to be restored. A court restored his citizenship last month, but the government has appealed against the decision. Azam was arrested in 1992 for allegedly violating Bangladesh's Foreigners' Act by becoming head of a political party.

Accord Signed With UNHCR on Rohingya Repatriation

BK1205153293 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] A Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] was signed in Dhaka today between the Bangladesh Government and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] to cooperate with each other in the safe and voluntary repatriation of the Rohingya refugees to Burma. It was signed by the visiting high commissioner of UNHCR, Dr. Sadako Ogata, and the Bangladesh foreign secretary, Mr. Reaz Rahman.

According to the provisions of the MOU, those refugees who want to return to their homes in Burma under the prevailing circumstances would be repatriated. The Government of Bangladesh will grant permission to UNHCR officials to freely visit the transit camps and interview the refugees who opt for repatriation. This will enable the officials to ascertain whether the repatriation of these refugees is voluntary or not. The MOU has further stated that the two sides will cooperate with each other to resist attempts made by any quarter to influence the decision of the refugees regarding their repatriation. The UNHCR will assist the Government of Bangladesh in the speedy repatriation of those refugees who decide to go back to their country after reviewing the prevailing situation there.

The foreign secretary, Mr. Reaz Rahman, has said that the motive and policy of the Bangladesh Government and the UNHCR in this regard is identical. Both sides are pledge bound to find a permanent solution to the Rohingya refugee problem so that they can voluntarily and safely return to their home.

Polling Officers Leave for Cambodian Elections*BK1105153793 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 11 May 93*

[Text] A 25-member team of government officials left Dhaka today for Cambodia via Bangkok to perform poll duties during the UN-sponsored general elections. Bangladesh Election Commission sources said these officials will work as polling officers. The six-day-long general elections in Cambodia begin on the 23rd of this month.

A Foreign Ministry official said in Dhaka today that Bangladesh is pledged to help establish peace and wants a solution to the Cambodian problem.

The Bangladeshi team consists of 20 deputy secretaries, four deputy commissioners, and one deputy attorney general. They will stay in Cambodia for three weeks.

India**Further on Visit of Belarus Prime Minister****Defense Cooperation Discussed***BK1205162493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 May 93*

[Text] India and Belarus have expressed concern over the exploitation of religious fundamentalism. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and his visiting Belarus counterpart, Mr. V.F. Kebich discussed the danger posed by fundamentalism and outside interference in the affairs of sovereign countries. In their one-to-one meeting in New Delhi this evening, the two leaders also expressed concern over the huge quantity of arms from the old Afghan conflict spreading all over the region. The Belarus prime minister said these arms are getting into the hands of terrorists. Mr. Narasimha Rao sharing this perception said it affected India as well. Both the leaders agreed that the two countries can cooperate in the area of defense.

Earlier, at the delegation-level talks, the two sides resolved to step up bilateral relations in economic and commercial fields. The Belarus prime minister spoke about high potential for joint ventures in agriculture as also cooperation in the areas of health, tourism, and culture.

Banquet Held for Kebich*BK1305035293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 May 93*

[Text] India has offered to share its experience and expertise with Belarus to transform its economy. Speaking at a banquet in honor of the visiting Belarus prime minister, Mr. V.F. Kebich, in New Delhi last night, the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, said the emergence of Belarus as an independent nation provides new opportunities for greater interaction at the governmental, institutional, and people-to-people levels. He

said India has acquired extensive experience in running a mixed economy. Mr. Rao said the current economic reforms in the country will further liberalize economy and integrate closely with the international economic systems. Welcoming Mr. Kebich on his first official visit to India as the prime minister of Belarus, Mr. Narasimha Rao said it marks the beginning of a new era in the history of bilateral relations between the two countries.

Views on Iran's Guilt in Bomb Blast Noted*LD1205103393 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 12 May 93*

[Text] New Delhi, May 12, IRNA—There is no evidence of Iranian hand in the Bombay bomb blast that killed over 300 people in March last, minister of state for internal security, Rajesh Pilot told the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of Indian Parliament today.

The investigations in the Bombay blasts were in progress and so far no evidence of Iranian involvement was there, pilot added.

The series of powerful bomb blasts that ripped through the heart of Bombay on March 12, left more than 300 people dead, hundreds of others injured and property worth millions destroyed.

While investigations into the blasts are continuing, authorities have named the prime suspect, identified as 'Tiger' Memon, a suspected narcotics dealer. Memon has fled India since.

Minister on Repatriation of Bangladeshi Refugees*BK1205125293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 12 May 93*

[Text] India has expressed readiness to extend full cooperation in the repatriation of the Chakma [tribal] refugees to their homeland. This was stated by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, in a suo moto statement in the Lok Sabha today. He said New Delhi hopes that Dhaka will now fulfill its commitment by taking back all the tribal refugees from the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Mr. Khurshid was making a statement on the visit of the Bangladesh minister, Colonel Oli Ahmed, to Chakma refugee camps on Saturday and Sunday last week. He said Mr. Ahmed met the representatives of the Chakma refugees to encourage their early return to Bangladesh. This followed the agreement reached between the prime ministers of the two countries last year, in which Bangladesh side had reiterated its commitment to take back the refugees.

U.S. Sends 'Conflicting Signals' on 'Terrorism'*BK1205111793 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 3 May 93 p 8*

[Editorial: "Confused Signals"]

[Text] How serious is the US in deterring international terrorism especially in South Asia? Conflicting signals on this question have emanated from Washington. Going by the State Department's report on active Pakistani involvement in the terroristic activities in Punjab and Kashmir, the US administration has a solid case for declaring Pakistan as a terrorist state. Yet the administration has preferred to stop short of such action. Has it any reason to think that Pakistan may heed its warning that the latter's conduct is being closely watched? If so, the US policy-makers must take a hard look at the great lengths to which Pakistan went at the recent OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] Foreign Ministers' meeting in Karachi in trying to secure the Islamic world's backing for its armed interference in Kashmir. They will find a good deal of evidence that Islamabad is determined to use the OIC to counter the American pressure against fuelling insurgency in Kashmir. This has served to underline the fact that the Pakistani irredentism in this case is based entirely on religious fanaticism and is, hence, all the more pernicious. It is difficult to resist the impression that the apparent American dithering on this issue may in fact be a part of an over-all design to force India to accept the American line on intellectual property rights. The Damocles Sword of action under Special 301 has, for instance, been rattled once again just at this juncture. Just in case this threat does not work, then perhaps the lack of a firm policy to deter Pakistani terrorism might do the trick. Is it possible that such a calculation is behind the diverse trends now discernible in Washington's policy? If this indeed is the case, it will not redound to the credit of the Clinton administration. How can such a major foreign policy objective as the elimination of international terrorism be linked in any way with other pending bilateral issues between India and the US Washington ought to make things clear beyond reasonable doubt and soon.

In the years of the Cold War, Pakistan made the most of its military alliance with the US in strengthening its own military and diplomatic position vis-a-vis India. It served the US not to take too serious a view of the covert Pakistani self-aggrandisement since the alliance did serve the wider anti-Soviet design. Even at that time, the US policy-makers often thought it prudent to appear even-handed as between India and Pakistan. It is possible that this mental habit still persists with the result that the US administration finds it difficult to take a forthright stand against Pakistani involvement in terrorism and at the same time deems it expedient to frown on India (e.g. Special 301 on another issue). The lone superpower is expected to come to grips with serious world problems with greater firmness and clarity of purpose than has so far been evident in its approach to the growing threat of destabilisation in South Asia.

Further on Kashmir Developments, Statements

Two Security Personnel Killed

*BK1205155893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1347 GMT
12 May 93*

[Text] New Delhi, May 12 (AFP)—Muslim separatist guerrillas killed two Indian security personnel in

Kashmir Wednesday, as the Army patrolled a tense town where Hindus and Muslims clashed after the murder of a Hindu leader.

The security personnel died in hospital after being seriously injured in a grenade attack on their vehicle in Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported. No further details were available.

Militants hurled a grenade at another vehicle transporting security forces in Srinagar's fashionable Regal Chowk area but it did not explode, police said. A young man picked up the grenade and escaped.

The attacks came as hundreds of paramilitary troops launched a massive hunt in parts of Srinagar for guerrillas who fired a rocket at the state secretariat Tuesday, killing two government employees.

The security forces sealed off five residential districts and later extended the house-to-house sweep to four more areas, PTI said.

Tuesday's attack on the Secretariat was claimed by the outlawed Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, one of the main guerrilla groups waging a violent campaign for the secession of Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

Despite the security sweep, some 3,000 government employees boycotted work Wednesday for a second day running, citing inadequate security. The employees stormed out of their offices immediately after the rocket hit the Secretariat.

Kashmir police chief Balwinder Singh Bedi said the militants' aim was to scare Hindu employees into leaving Srinagar, and vowed to reinforce security at the complex.

The state administration shifted its base Monday from Jammu, the winter capital, to Srinagar, which is the urban hub of the bloody secessionist drive.

Meanwhile, Indian army troops enforced a strict curfew Wednesday in the Kashmiri town of Kishtwar to halt Hindu-Muslim clashes sparked by the murder of a Hindu fundamentalist leader.

Soldiers patrolled the streets and took up positions in the small town a day after Hindus and Muslims fought street battles and attacked each others' homes and businesses, police said.

One man, a Muslim, was burned to death and 12 were injured in the violence which broke out shortly after the cremation of Satish Bhandari, who headed the local chapter of the fundamentalist Hindu Protection Society.

On Wednesday, Hindus in Jammu and other towns observed a general strike to denounce Bhandari's murder. Officials described the situation in Kishtwar as "under control".

Kashmir 'National Problem'*BK1205161093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 May 93*

[Text] The government says restoration of normalcy in the Kashmir valley gets top priority, the political process only comes next. Replying to a six-hours of discussion on the calling-attention motion about the situation in Kashmir in the Rajya Sabha today, the minister of state for home affairs, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, said Kashmir is a national problem and all political parties have to join the government in its efforts to retrieve the situation there.

Assuring the House that India is strong enough to not to be dictated by any outside forces on Kashmir, Mr. Pilot said that India will have to effectively counter the propaganda unleashed by Pakistan. He told the members that the government is setting up community development committees at district levels and launching special recruitment drive for youths in the border areas.

Earlier, participating in the discussion, members from various political parties urged the government to follow a consistent and a clear cut approach on the issue.

'Open Mind' on Autonomy*BK1305032693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 May 93*

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, has urged all the political parties to join the government in its efforts to retrieve the situation in Kashmir. Replying to a six-hour discussion on the calling attention motion moved by Mr. M.C. Bhandari, Congress-I, in the Rajya Sabha yesterday, Mr. Pilot said that the government gives top priority to the restoration of normalcy in the Kashmir valley and the political process comes next. He said no one can be allowed to take law into one's own hands. The minister said the government has an open mind on autonomy, but there are no political forces at present to discuss the issue with it. He said the government will use an individual or a party that is having influence in the valley for a solution to the problem, but assured that the government has no intention to impose any chief minister in the state.

Earlier, initiating the discussion, Mr. Bhandari said that the first priority of the government should be to fight terrorism. Members from various political parties urged the government to follow a consistent and a clearcut approach on the issue.

Two Militants Killed*BK1305035093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 May 93*

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, indefinite curfew continues in Kishtwar and Bhadarwah towns on the third day today. The inspector general of police, Mr. S.S. Wazir, told our Jammu correspondent this morning that two militants were killed last night in Bhadarwah town in an encounter with the security forces. Two AK-56

rifles and a sizeable quantity of ammunition were recovered. In Kishtwar town, six persons have been taken into custody in connection with the killing of the Rakhsa Samiti [Protection Society] leader, Mr. Satish Bhandari. Mr. Wazir said that Army and BSF [Border Security Force] would continue search operations in both the towns to nab the militants.

President's Rule Extended for 6 Months*BK1205160293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 May 93*

[Text] The Lok Sabha today approved the extension of president's rule in four states—Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Himachal Pradesh—for six months with effect from 6th of next month. The house approved four statutory resolutions for continuance of the president's rule by voice vote. Earlier, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] members staged a walkout in protest against the move.

Winding up the discussion on the resolution, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, assured the house that assembly elections will be held in the four states simultaneously. He told the house that the government is seriously considering steps to stop political parties mixing religion with politics from participating in the elections. The government is also considering the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission under Article 356 [on the 'imposition of president's rule in any state'] but ruled out giving up the article altogether.

The leader of the opposition, Mr. L.K. Advani, charged the government that it has no basis for extending the president's rule, particularly after the Madhya Pradesh High Court judgment. Earlier, participating in the discussion, members spoke on the party lines, with the BJP demanding immediate elections in the four states. Mr. S.C. Verma of the BJP, initiating the discussion, said that dismissal of four state governments was unjustified.

Extension Called Justified*BK1305052093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 May 93*

[Commentary by Jannath Singh of the TIMES OF INDIA]

[Text] The government's decision to extend president's rule for another six months in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Rajasthan can hardly be faulted in view of the continuing fragile communal situation in these states. There is every danger that the law and order machinery would come under strain once the elections are announced. Unless the communal virus is fully curbed and a situation created for harmonious relations between communities, holding of elections in these states would be a leap in the dark.

As the union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, assured the Lok Sabha, the government would not like to prolong president's rule a day longer than necessary. But, before

it can be withdrawn, conditions must be created to ensure that there is no collapse of law and order machinery again. As pointed out by the home minister, the government faces an uphill task in restoring communal amity because of the deep inroads made here by fundamentalist forces belonging both to the majority and the minority communities during the period when these states were ruled by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] governments.

Wittingly or unwittingly, the BJP rule created the impression that religious organizations belonging to the majority community were more equal than others. It fostered deep fears among the minorities. Not only have these to be removed but steps must also be taken to reassure all communities that they could go about their religious pursuits without interference or provocation from any quarter. A point repeatedly made in the Lok Sabha yesterday was that since the Madhya Pradesh High Court had held dissolution of the state government unconstitutional, the center should not delay restoration of popular government in the state. But, it would be wrong to doubt the center's protestations in this regard that everything would be done according to the constitution. The center has gone in appeal against the High Court judgment and until it is disposed of, the issue is sub judice and no reference should be made to it.

In secular India, mixing of religion with politics cannot be allowed and unless steps are taken to check it, our society will remain susceptible to pressures which cannot be permitted or allowed free play in a country keen to preserve its age-old heritage of religious tolerance. Mr. Chavan repeated that the government was seriously considering how to prevent abuse of religious slogans and dogmas for political ends.

'Important Flaws' in Armed Forces Discussed

BK1205114593 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
3 May 93 p 8

[Editorial: "Defence Demands Notice"]

[Text] The National Security Council, whose resurrection was announced by the Prime Minister while replying to the debate on the Defence Ministry's demand for grants will achieve little unless some important flaws are remedied. Indian Army's teeth-to-tail ratio, which determines the percentage of combat soldiers vis-a-vis those of the other corps, is about 70:30. Coupled with this unflattering figure is another astounding fact: about 60 percent of the annual budgetary allocations for defence are consumed by the pays and stores bills. These statistics, alarming for any nation, highlight some very disturbing facts. About 30 percent of the Army cannot be deployed for combat duties. Not only that, given the extraordinary bill on pays and stores the Army does not have the monies needed for essential purchases, advancing training techniques, and modernisation of hardware. The picture would appear even more dismal if one considers some other unsavoury facts—deployment

for internal security which causes equipment wastage, loss of training time, and, above all, declining morale.

How has the efficacy of the Army, and that of its brother services, been allowed to be so undermined? The question has yet to be adequately answered, and the Prime Minister, in his capacity as the Defence Minister, unfortunately did not touch upon this aspect. In his reply to the debate, Mr. Rao limited himself to the predictable topics which give an impression that everything is fine. This is clearly not the case. The functioning of the three armed services reflect certain systemic flaws, particularly in the decision-making process. If these are not remedied along the lines suggested by the report of the Arun Singh committee on Defence Expenditure, the current drift will continue. Mr. Rao did not do justice to the report when he said that a decision had been taken on the size of the Eighth Plan. The report recommends financial commitments extended over a certain period in order to induce some planning within the edifice of MoD [Ministry of Defense]. There is nothing to suggest that this has actually come to be accepted. And crucially, the report cannot be implemented piecemeal, because it is inter-related and leading towards steps aimed at rationalising expenditure on Defence.

A hesitant approach is also apparent in relation to projects aiming at self-sufficiency in defence hardware. It was evident with the main battle-tank project, and it is the same with the light combat aircraft (LCA) programme. Therefore, the decision to deinduct MiG-21s is fraught with difficulties until a firm approach is adopted with the LCA. India now has no option but to develop its own LCA, and therefore, the funds needed to boost the programmes must be given. Simultaneously, the implementation of projects must also improve. That requires, above all, an ability to stomach harsh decisions, something which neither the Government nor the Services have displayed, so far.

Iran

Council Approves 4 Presidential Candidates

LD1305102493 Tehran IRNA in English 1003 GMT
13 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA—The Guardians Council here Thursday confirmed eligibility of four, out of 128, applicants for the 6th presidential elections, scheduled for June 11.

The four are: President Hojatoleslam Akbar Hashemi-Bahremani (Rafsanjani), former labor minister Ahmad Tavakkoli, Chancellor of Open Islamic University 'Abdollah Ja'far-'Ali Jasbi and former Majles deputy Rajab-'Ali Taheri.

The council started deliberations over the competency of the 128 applicants, registered for this term of presidential elections, last Thursday.

According to the elections law, the Interior Ministry should make public the list of the candidates within a maximum of 48 hours after the approval of the Guardians Council.

Propaganda campaign of the candidates would start after the list is published by the Interior Ministry and would continue 24 hours before the balloting starts.

The sixth term of presidential elections would be held on Friday June 11 throughout the country and in diplomatic representatives of the Islamic Republic abroad.

Reportage on Ukrainian Parliament Speaker's Visit

Plyushch Arrives 10 May

LD1005145193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1315 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Heading a delegation the Ukrainian parliament speaker, Mr. Ivan Stepanovych Plyushch, arrived in Iran today at the invitation of Majles Speaker Mr. Nateq-Nuri. In a news conference, shortly after his arrival, the Ukrainian speaker underlined Iran's role in creating regional stability and peace and called for the further expansion of relations between Iran and Ukraine. During his four-day visit Mr. Plyushch will meet with senior Iranian officials.

Majles Speaker Mr. Nateq-Nuri also said that Ukraine enjoys a unique position among the Central Asian countries, and hoped that the Ukrainian official's visit would accelerate bilateral economic trends.

Help With MIA Issue Sought

AU1305112893 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 12 May 93 p 3

[Statement by the Press Center of Ukraine's Supreme Council; place and date not given: "Ukrainian Parliamentarians in Teheran"]

[Text] The visit by Ukraine's Supreme Council delegation headed by I.S. Plyushch to the Islamic Republic of Iran continues.

On arrival in Teheran on 19 May, the Ukrainian parliamentarians were given a festive reception at the airport. I.S. Plyushch and members of the delegation were met near the aircraft steps by Majles chairman Nateq Nuri. The guard of honor was formed up to welcome the guests.

The delegation visited a place that is sacred for Iranians—the burial-vault of their spiritual leader Imam Khomeyni and laid a wreath there. The Supreme Council chairman made an entry in the book for visitors to the magnificent structure erected near Teheran at the expense of the people.

The first day's program concluded with a lengthy conversation with Chairman of Parliament Nateq Nuri, who stressed that such visits are very useful, that Iran wishes to continue its cooperation with Ukraine, and that we can assist each other.

The chairman of the Supreme Council briefed his hosts on Ukraine's possibilities of conducting mutually advantageous cooperation with a country that exports energy sources. The more quickly they reach us, he pointed out, the more efficient such assistance will be. Perhaps, today, due to the economic crisis, Ukraine is not such a useful partner, but in the future the situation will change. Those who invest in the Ukrainian economy today will profit from this.

I.S. Plyushch submitted a list of 80 servicemen—Ukrainian citizens—who have been reported as missing in action or who are kept prisoners in Afghanistan. He raised the question of assistance in searching for them by such an influential Islamic country as Iran. Nateq Nuri promised to do what he could to help.

Ties Discussed With President

LD1205101793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Mr. Ivan Plyushch, the Ukrainian parliamentary speaker, today. The Ukrainian parliamentary speaker described last year's visit by his country's president to Iran and the agreements reached in that visit as a new chapter in cooperation between the two countries. He said that the purpose of the Ukrainian parliamentary delegation's visit to Iran is to confirm the agreements between the two countries, and that in view of the many common grounds for cooperation between the two countries, Ukraine is eager to expand relations on the basis of the two countries' common denominators. He described cooperation between the newly independent Central Asian states, especially Ukraine, with the Islamic Republic of Iran, as catalytic in strengthening the bases of those countries' independence. Finally, he submitted a report on the political-economic situation in Ukraine following its gaining independence.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed to the existence of a political will in Iran and Ukraine to promote the two countries' relations in various spheres, in particular, energy. He added: It is expected that by pursuing the agreements reached between the two countries during the Ukrainian president's visit to Iran, more practical and effective steps will be taken toward the implementation of those agreements, in particular in the field of energy and the transfer of gas.

At the end of the meeting, the president, remarking on the common grounds for cooperation between Iran and Ukraine, stressed the need to make the utmost use of those grounds toward deepening bilateral relations, and in the interest of the two nations.

Economic Ties Set for Expansion

*LD1205142493 Tehran IRNA in English 1248 GMT
12 May 93*

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told the visiting Ukrainian Parliament Speaker Ivan Stefanovich Plyushch on Wednesday that both Iran and Ukraine have decided to broaden their overall relations, economic cooperation in particular.

The Ukrainian official who arrived here on Monday told the Iranian president that cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the newly-independent Central Asian republics and Ukraine will help consolidate independence of those states.

Plyushch said that during the visit he will follow up the agreements reached between the two countries. He also called for further promotion of Tehran-Kiev relations for the benefit of both countries.

Meanwhile, Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri gave a dinner banquet in honour of his Ukrainian counterpart and the accompanying delegation last night. In a speech he warned the former Soviet Union republics to avoid falling into the trap of the West. Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri welcomed the fall of communism and referred to the remarks of the late founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeyni predicting the downfall of communism.

He also touched on the role of Ukraine as a founding member of the United Nations and expressed hope that it will continue its role in supporting the right and opposing the wrong. He also called for utilization of the two countries' economic potentials in the framework of bilateral cooperation.

Plyushch thanked Iran for its hospitality and called on Tehran to help Kiev further consolidate its independence.

Speaker Cautions on 'West's Trap'

LD1205205293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] At a state banquet Tuesday night to honor the visit to Iran by Ukraine Parliament Speaker Mr. Stefanovich and his accompanying delegation, Majles Speaker Mr. Nateq-Nuri expressed satisfaction at the dismantling of obstacles which existed in the way of forming relations and cooperation between Iran and Ukraine. Referring to the ideas of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may God be satisfied with him—regarding the disintegration of communism, he also warned the newly independent republics from falling into the West's trap.

The Ukraine Parliament speaker expressed thanks for Iran's warm hospitality toward himself and his accompanying delegation and called on the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials to help Ukraine to further strengthen its independence.

Memorandum Signed; Plyushch Departs

LD1205182393 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Ukrainian parliamentary speaker Ivan Stefanovich Plyushch, at the end of his visit to our country, signed a memorandum of understanding and was seen off by the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. Upon leaving Tehran, the Ukrainian parliamentary speaker, in an interview with our correspondent regarding the consequences of his visit to Iran, said: With the signing of a memorandum of understanding, various grounds for cooperation between the two countries were emphasized and grounds for cooperation between the private sector of the two countries also have been well prepared in the industry and commerce area and bilateral exchanges will flourish.

Majles speaker Nateq Nuri, on his talks with his Ukrainian counterpart, said: The two countries will have good cooperation in the economic and parliamentary fields. The Majles speaker added: According to the signed memorandum of understanding Ukraine has agreed to buy 4 million tonnes of oil from Iran.

Nateq Nuri said: Cooperation among the three countries of Iran, Azerbaijan, and Ukraine within the framework of a common company in the field of gas, agreement on exchange of information, and legislative and parliamentary experiences, formation of a parliamentary friendship group between the two states, and cooperation for creating an atmosphere of peace and stability in the region and the world were some of the issues raised in talks during the Ukrainian parliamentary delegation's visit.

UN Envoy: No Attempts To Boost Ties With U.S.

LD1305084493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] The Iranian Ambassador to the UN, Mr. Kamal Kharrazi, in an interview with the daily LOS ANGELES TIMES has said that the U.S. is involved in a psychological war against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Commenting at length on Islamic Iran's stances and policies, Mr. Kharrazi termed as baseless, the notion of the U.S. experts that Iran is inclined to develop ties with the U.S. Mr. Kharrazi said: If the relations are under basis of mutual respect, Iran sees no obstacle, however the problem conditions are certainly not so. [sentence as heard]

The Iranian ambassador to the UN strongly denied rumors that Iran is selling arms and other banned goods

to Bosnia, stressing that the Islamic Republic of Iran has abided by the UN resolutions.

He also rejected accusations of any assistance to the Islamic movements in Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia by Iran.

Mr. Kharrazi rejected and declared as completely baseless, the accusations regarding Iran's financial assistance to those who are involved in the bombing of the New York World Trade Center.

Mr. Kharrazi added that he had neither made any contacts with the American officials, nor has made any effort to establish such contacts during his stay in the U.S.

Transport Agreement Signed With Kazakhstan

LD1205172493 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] To promote commercial shipping and international transport of goods and passengers, an agreement was signed in Tehran today between Kazakh Transport Minister Assin Garin and Iranian Minister of Roads and Transport Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia. The agreement stipulates the provision of facilities for transport of goods and passengers in the form of transit, and bilateral transit and passenger flights. Transport of goods from Kazakhstan to Iran began today simultaneously with the signing of the agreement.

New Bosnian Ambassador Lauds Iranian Aid

LD1205182193 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA—First Ambassador of Bosnia-Herzegovina to Iran Omar Bahman said here today that if other world countries had supplied half of the relief aid Iran sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina, the situation in the war-torn country would be different.

He told First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati in a meeting here that although people in Bosnia-Herzegovina were suffering from hunger under the rains of shells, the future was promising. He met with Besharati to hand over a copy of his credentials.

Besharati reiterated the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and hailed the resistance of the people against the Serbs.

He hoped that with the blessing of Allah and efforts of the Bosnian people, the Serbs would eventually retreat, and Bosnian people would attain their legitimate sovereignty.

U.S. Violated IMF Delegate's 'Human Rights'

LD1105191493 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 11, IRNA—A Majles deputy said here today that the U.S., by barring him to attend the International Monetary Fund (IMF) session in Washington D.C., has just undermined its legal standing in the world.

Hoseyn Hoseyni Shahrudi, the Majles Economic-Finance Committee chairman and a member of the Iranian 7-man delegation to the IMF spring session, was deported by Immigration officials on April 26 after being held in custody for 12 hours.

Shahrudi, a Majles representative from Shahrud, a city in Semnan Province, said in his address to the Majles here today that Washington demands concessions from IMF member countries, justifying such demands under the pretext that it is providing services to international organizations.

He noted that the U.S. has pressured the delegates morally and psychologically in order to acquire the information. This, he said was "a clear violation of human rights and international regulations." Such conducts, Shahrudi added, indicated that the U.S. was not a suitable country to host international organizations sessions and that a radical solution for the problem should be sought.

Meanwhile, Mahmud Astaneh, a representative from Sarband, a city in Arak Province, in his speech addressed the Central Bank governor who had recently met with IMF general manager and advised him that the international economic organizations, controlled by the enemies of the Islamic Republic, were guardians of the interests of the imperialist powers. Western economic models, Astaneh said, should be replaced with the Islamic and grass-roots models to raise the public confidence.

'Inhuman' Raid on Davidian Sect Unjustifiable

NC0705133893 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 26 Apr 93 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The United States and Terrorism"]

[Excerpts] CIA Director James Woolsey told the U.S. Senate's Legal Committee that in 1992, 362 terrorist attacks worldwide left 93 people dead and 60 wounded. In his remarks, he portrayed the United States as a terrorist target and implied that the U.S. Government is a victim of these attacks. He listed Iran and revolutionary movements that oppose U.S. policies as the perpetrators of these extremist acts.

This is a policy that U.S. officials have tried to impose on world public opinion in past years on the basis of a very calculated program. If we accept the CIA director's

figures on the casualties, we should congratulate the Clinton administration on burning alive 90 unarmed U.S. citizens who had done nothing contrary to U.S. interests. If, as James Woolsey said, international terrorists could kill 93 people in a year, the few-month old Clinton administration surpassed this figure with one attempt. It remains to be seen how many casualties there will be by the end of 1993.

What does the FBI attack on the Davidian sect for which Clinton took full responsibility portray? Wasn't this an inhuman and terrorist act? The world is now asking: How can the U.S. Government confront international terrorism when it burns alive 90 people including over 17 children in an attempt to solve a minor political problem?

Last week's incident in the United States showed that like past U.S. Administrations, Clinton's has made terrorism the main basis of its political-military structure and stated that it cannot tolerate any opposition. The question American officials are facing is: What was the reason for the horrific and shocking massacre of the Davidian sect? How can this inhuman act be justified? Was U.S. national security threatened? Had this sect attempted a military action against the United States, which resorts to international weapons and exploits world forums such as the United Nations and the Human Rights Committee to accuse anti-U.S. independent governments for their humane and legal actions in punishing drug smugglers and criminals? How can it justify this act, which resulted in the deaths of 17 innocent children?

In the first months of his rule, Clinton faces several big problems. His political inexperience has led the Democrats into a major social crisis at home and has resulted in ambiguity on an international level. In an effort to prevent this incident becoming a wider issue, something rare in modern U.S. history, the Western mass media are doing their best to save the Clinton administration from this problem. But the ruthless massacre of the Davidian sect by the FBI is one of the rare incidents that can be compared only with the Nazis' crimes in Europe and the Serb crimes in Bosnia. [passage omitted]

The truth is that the recent act by the FBI reveals the true nature of the political decisionmakers in the United States and, as no logical person in the past believed the United States could succeed in the field of international politics without resorting to terrorism, today too no one will be fooled by the Democrat government feigning support for human rights. Clinton has tried to mask his efforts to continue past U.S. policies with human rights gestures. The extensive propaganda on a U.S. humanitarian presence in Somalia started to lose its lustre when the powerful U.S. soldiers suffered defeats and casualties in Somalia and when reports on the U.S. presence in Somalia revealed that it aimed for specific military-political positions, not to help the starving Somalis. The

pressures on Iran in the form of support for the opposition—a support portrayed as an opposition to terrorism—should also be viewed within this context. But the recent massacre of the Davidian sect showed Clinton's alleged support for human rights will not succeed and that this policy failed from the outset. To hide its political-military objectives in Third World countries, the United States is trying to improve its political prestige and to erase from world public opinion the memories of its attacks on Granada, Panama, Iraq, and so on. But these efforts are futile and the United States won't achieve its objective.

Tehran Views Grachev's Visit to Turkey

NC1205202993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 11 May 93

[Unattributed commentary: "Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's Visit to Turkey"]

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev arrived in Ankara at the head of a high-ranking military delegation for a five-day visit to Turkey last Monday. According to statements by the Turkish and Russian defense ministers, the sides have conferred on the military cooperation between the two countries, the Karabakh dispute, and the important problems in the region.

Grachev's visit to Turkey is the first by a Russian defense minister to that country. It would be right to say that it can be regarded as a mechanism for realizing the wide-ranging military agreements between the two sides. At the end of 1992, Prime Minister Demirel declared that Turkey put into effect a military project that will cost \$12 billion. According to Turkish officials, Turkey's location among the crisis-stricken Balkan, Caucasian, and Middle East countries has compelled Ankara to improve its relations with several countries, particularly in the military field. In view of this, Ankara has moved to strengthen Turkey's military might, take effective steps to achieve its objectives in the region, and play a new role in regional arrangements. Turkey has signed military agreements with several European countries. It also signed an agreement with Moscow in March for the purchase of military equipment worth \$75 million.

Considering Russia's economic problems, Defense Minister Grachev may be willing to sign new agreements in Ankara for the sale of additional Russian arms to Turkey. Ankara is convinced that Turkey may strengthen its influence on the Caucasus region if it improves its relations with Russia.

Ankara has launched an active diplomatic initiative to have the Karabakh dispute resolved. And it has been trying to use the opportunities it has to take practical steps to strengthen Turkey's influence on the Caucasus region. Indeed, Ankara recently launched a joint initiative with Moscow and Washington within the CSCE framework to solve the problems relating to the Armenian attacks on Azerbaijan. In view of this, the Turkish and Russian defense ministers are expected to discuss

the crisis in the Caucasus in addition to the military cooperation between the two countries. Remember, the Russian Armed Forces have been accused of cooperating with the Armenian military forces against Azerbaijan.

Pavel Grachev is expected to explain Moscow's position on the crisis in the Caucasus to Turkish officials and to try to reach an agreement with Turkey on the problem in that region.

*** Commentary on Ideological War With Turkey**

93LA0025Z London KEYHAN in Persian 8 Apr 93
pp 6, 11

[Commentary by Mohammad Orosi]

[Text] The fire of political and ideological conflicts between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey is becoming more heated every day, and due to expansive economic treaties, skepticism and hostile rivalry are replacing 50 years of cooperation and peaceful coexistence.

The Islamic government officials of Iran have revived the spirit of Shah Esma'il and the Qezelbash warriors and entertain the notion of exporting their religious-political views and in so doing to overthrow the Western-inclined regime of Ankara and remove the basis of American influence in the region and spread revolutionary Islam in the newly independent former Soviet republics.

For the rulers of the Islamic government, part of this policy is for domestic consumption, by which they are trying to guarantee the survival of their own regime. The Turkish political regime as a model for Iranians would mean the end of their rule, and at the same time they are aware of the weakness of the secular regime of Turkey to fight Islam. The Turks, despite the economic growth and 70 years of efforts to modernize, live in a relatively backward country, and the place Turkey holds today does not conform to the glorious picture that they have of their past.

Poverty and a low standard of living, dependence on the West and the United States, a \$5 billion foreign debt, 5 billion unemployed people, the employment of millions of Turks at low-paying jobs in Germany and Europe, a watered-down and weak democracy, Turkish and Kurdish tribal conflicts, social corruption, and the difference in wealth and social polarization, the release of the Iranian-Islamic-Turkish world from the Soviet prison, and other unknown factors once again give much power to the Islamicization of the Turkish society and make the Turkish Muslims fight and the Islamic government of Iran more courageous in pursuing their policies.

Let it not be forgotten that in accepting Islam the Turks gained an empire and the Iranians lost a monarchy.

Today, among the deprived people in the society, those who are politically disappointed, the migrant workers

from villages, and students, Islam has gained a strong resonance in a way that the Islamic Welfare Party of Najmaddin Arbagan, who had gained only 7 percent of the votes in the 1987 elections, in the recent elections for the City Hall of Istanbul, won over all its rivals. The building of mosques and the spread of the Islamic cover are significant. Schools and universities have become centers for Islamic propaganda and propagation, and Marxists who have recently turned Muslim, such as Esmat Ozal and Ali Bulak, have turned to symbols of revolutionary Islam. Criticism and faultfinding with the laic, Ataturk regime has escalated and criticism is becoming harsher every day.

Fahmi Kuru, the editor of the Islamic newspaper ZAMAN, speaks of the right to live a nonlaic, Islamic life and questions secularism and the separation of religion from government. Some others speak of removing the Ataturk memorial and believe that Turkey is governed from a graveyard and that it is the corpse of Ataturk that governs them.

Hundreds of thousands of people have demanded that the Topkapi Museum be changed to the Ayat Sofia Mosque and have linked this issue to the issue of fighting laicism.

Opinion polls at the Administrative Sciences College of Turkey indicate a large percentage of supporters of an Islamic government and negation of the nonreligious regime. They have said that Islam is not a religion of Saturday and Sunday, but a religion for all seven days of the week.

The movement is a combination of the Nurju, Naqsh-bandi, and Bul Imanji sects. The congress of the 2-million-large sect of Nurju from 1980 has found renewed life and has again placed making the Turkish society religious over Islamicizing the government and at the present avoids political conflict with the government. But the trend of the affairs indicate future changes by other Turkish rulers after passing through the long anti-Islam Kamalism period to a sort of faint laicism and support of Islam to disarm the religious rivals.

Since 1982, the teaching of the Koran has become mandatory in public schools, and Turkey has become a member of the Islamic countries.

Article 163 of the penal code, which condemned propagation against laicism, was replaced with Article 198, which calls for punishment for insults against Islam of six months in jail.

There is also the oil-Islamic movement. Saudi dollars fill the pockets of the journalists, who have no interest in truth, to propagate Wahabism.

For this reason, the vulnerability of Turkey with regard to Islam has given the religious rulers of Iran reason to use Islam as a weapon to counter the influence of Turkey in the Caucasian transoceanic countries and prevent the likelihood of their provocation in Iranian Azerbaijan.

The Main Weapon

The main weapon of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic is ideology and at times to drag any sort of difference to the arena of ideology and confrontation of two philosophies. On the other hand, as the Ottoman sultans imagined Shiite Iran as a wall of separation between themselves and the Sunnis of the transoceanic countries and Afghanistan, Turkish nationalism also, despite its differences with religious guardianship, considers Iran and Armenia the factor of separation between the Turkish people of Caucasia and the transoceanic countries and has not given up its greed in regards to Iranian Azarbaijan.

The Turks speak of the new age of the uprising of the Turks and despite the apparent opposition to ultranationalistic pan-Turkism, suffer from that disease from head to toe, and only a small percentage have remained immune.

The Turkish Government has turned opposition to the regime of religious guardianship into a tool of influence in the region, and also a tool to put pressure on the United States, Israel and the Western world, asking for the cost of its policy of looking to the West, which is headed by opposition to Iran, from the West.

The United States also insists on washing its hands of Kamalism, that without attention to the East wants relations with the West and Europe and calls on the Turks to change their policy.

JOMHURIYYAT newspaper, on 26 February 1990, quoting an American official, Graham Fuller, wrote: "Ataturk during his time was right, in order to fight pan-Islamism and pan-Turkism, to choose those policies that avoided the West. Now the situation has changed. You cannot act in the atmosphere of the 1920's and 1930's. Fifty million Soviet Muslims are moving toward freedom. Turkey can become a source of intellectual inspiration and an economic and political model for them and play a great role." Greek sources speak of employing dozens of Turkish scholars and Turkish specialists in the U.S. State Department and research institutions and consider their duty to study the Turkish tribes and pan-Turkism in order to create an obstacle against the Islamic Republic and turn the changes in the newly independent former Soviet republics to their own interests. Israel also sees the extremist Turkish nationalism against Iranians and Arabs and intends to take advantage of it.

The dream of military conflict between Turkey and Iran, like the Iran-Iraq war, is a tempting sweet wish, of which the real winner would be Israel.

On the other hand, historical experience has indicted a sort of national opportunism among Turkish government rulers. As they have shown in the last five centuries, during the time of Iranian strength, they have claimed to be friends, and during its weakness they have turned into ill wishers and enemies. Historical evidence

also shows this. Among them, in the battle over the nationalization of oil, Turkey took the side of Britain and accused Iran of violating the rights of the British.

In the Iran-Iraq war, by opposing the war on the surface, it profited from both countries, sold its goods, and viewed the war as a gain for themselves.

And today, under the conditions of the political and economic isolation of Iran and the problems due to the adventurism of the Islamic government rulers of Iran, in the name of defending freedom and a secular regime, the Turks are trying to advance their ultranationalistic and pan-Turkish goals and will not pass up any opportunity to strike blows against Iran and infiltrate Azarbaijan.

The occupation of part of Iranian Azarbaijan in a rapid attack is a likelihood, if there is Western support.

According to some reports from Turkey, Turgut Ozal participated in the planning of a large military base and said: "Soon important military events will occur in this region."

The Turks have shown that they are great commanders and serious soldiers, but bad politicians. Iranians also are great idealists and serious revolutionaries, but bad politicians. With such characteristics, ignoring the common points and focussing on the differences is easier than anything else, and any tragic event could happen. Once Shah 'Abbas Safavi had said that he "preferred the soles of the shoes of the Christians to the greatest of Ottoman men."

The advancement of belligerence and hostility between the religious ideology of the Iranian Government and the ultrachauvinism of the Turks can end in a disaster that would make the suffering nations of the region prefer the boots of American and European soldiers to their own leaders. May this never happen.

Commentary Attacks UK Government Over Rushdie Issue

LD1205131293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT
12 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Salman Rushdie, the apostatic author of the book, "The Satanic Verses," met British Prime Minister John Major yesterday. The meeting, which was the first between Rushdie and the British prime minister, only lasted a half hour.

Since the fatwa of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, sanctified be his soul, in the winter of 1989, Salman Rushdie has been in hiding. Imam Khomeyni issued a fatwa declaring that Salman Rushdie must be killed for writing the offensive book "The Satanic Verses" and insulting the sanctities of Islam and the esteemed prophet of Islam.

Over the past few years, despite the fact that the British Government has repeatedly stated that it does not support insults to Islam and that the British Government had no hand in the writing and publication of the book, it has constantly used the Rushdie issue as a political weapon against Iran and Muslims. The British Government, particularly in recent months, by stirring the Rushdie affair, is attempting to turn the issue into a European one. To that end, with the help of the British Government, Rushdie has traveled to northern and central European countries and has practically been in the service of the British Foreign Office. In the past too, through Britain's efforts, the European Community recalled its ambassadors from Tehran but, after a while, without any change in the fatwa, the envoys of the EC countries returned to Tehran.

In the view of the Government the Islamic Republic of Iran, the fatwa on Salman Rushdie does not mean interfering in the internal affairs of other countries, but is a religious edict, issued by the highest clerical personage.

In any case, the meeting between the British prime minister and Rushdie, five years after the fatwa was issued, has its own connotation. The British Government intends to prevent the Salman Rushdie issue from being forgotten and plans to use it as a weapon against Iran and world Muslims. At the same time, raising the issue in the present circumstances, is only giving support to America. Since the Democrats came to power in America, one of the daily chores of the U.S. secretary of state has been to attack the Islamic Republic of Iran. In that time, Iran has been accused of violating human rights, attempting to obtain nuclear arms, and supporting terrorism. Britain, which has always been regarded as the European axis of American policy, is trying to add the Rushdie issue to that scenario.

British Prime Minister Said Using Rushdie as 'Distraction'

LD1205060293 Tehran IRNA in English 0458 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] London, May 12, IRNA—The Prime Minister's Office announced Tuesday that John Major had proceeded with his promise to meet Salman Rushdie as a way of showing his full support for the apostate author.

The move was seen in Britain as an act of defiance that is likely to have widespread repercussions in relations and trade with Islamic countries.

Coming at a time his government is facing a barrage of criticism about its performance and credibility, the meeting can only further question the prime minister's sense of judgement, especially when it is thought the European Community desires to improve Iranian ties.

At the meeting, which was described as 30-minutes of "serious discussion," Major was said to have claimed it was the British Government which had a "great respect

for Islam" and that it was Iran which was doing "no service" to the great religion.

His concern was that Iran had "failed to repudiate" the fatwa on Rushdie's life, issued by the late Imam Khomeyni four years ago, and the bounty offered by an Iranian institution.

While on the other hand, the British Government fully supported the "rights" of Rushdie as a British citizen.

The Iranian Embassy in London issued no immediate response to the meeting, which the Prime Minister's Office said was planned more than two months ago in spite of the deep offence the author has caused to more than one billion Muslims by the publication of his blasphemous book, "The Satanic Verses."

British Muslims, including the UK Action Committee on Islamic Affairs, had earlier advised Major his meeting would "add insult to injury" caused to Muslims everywhere. Several senior politicians also warned of the possible damage to trade with Islamic countries.

After the meeting, Rushdie was quoted as saying he hoped now to meet U.S. President Bill Clinton to put more pressure on Iran, even though he is as aware as the UK and American Governments that the fatwa is not a political matter, but an irrevocable religious decree.

His further comments about wanting to meet other leaders appear out of touch with the position of the European Community, which according to diplomatic sources, is understood to have avoided the issue in its recent letter to President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In essence, the apostate author is seen trapped in his own folly and has become a political tool to be used or dispensed with for ulterior motives by Britain.

At a time of needing a distraction from his domestic woes, it appears that Major may have led himself into another impossible corner that will prove no benefit to Britain or its people.

Pakistan

Mazari Launches Election Campaign 12 May

BK1205152693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, today launched electioneering campaign in the country with an address to a big public meeting at Gandhkot. The public meeting was held to mark the inauguration of Sui gas supply to the town. The prime minister said that he was launching electioneering campaign from today and appealed to the people to elect such representatives in the coming elections who are imbued with the (?verve) to resolve the problems of the people. The prime minister said it is our desire to ensure provision of basic amenities to the people at the earliest. This is our motif

without which social justice cannot be ensured. The prime minister said for the first time in the country a national government has come into being with representation of all sections of population and areas. The prime minister said it is our desire to provide maximum basic facilities to the people because in the absence of equal availability of these facilities, the dispensation of social justice to people will not be possible, which is the aim of the present government. The prime minister said natural gas is also a basic need of the people. The prime minister said that gas lines will be laid in 48 new cities, as a result of which 300,000 more consumers will benefit from this commodity in the next two years. The prime minister formally inaugurated the gas supply.

Earlier, the caretaker prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, performed the ground-breaking ceremony of Ghauspur-Shohru Nala section of the Indus Highway project, some 100 km from Jaicobabad, today. The prime minister inaugurated the project by unveiling the plaque. The prime minister also attended a briefing on this occasion. The project will be completed next year at a cost of 56 crore rupees. Addressing the ceremony, the prime minister said that the present government would give top priority to solving the problems of the people of backward areas of the country and projects for development and prosperity of these areas would be completed in the shortest possible time. He said that the Indus Highway passes through the backward areas of Sindh, Punjab, and the NWFP [North- West Frontier Province] and construction of this highway would help in bringing progress to the areas. Mir Balkh Sher Mazari said the present government would complete those developmental projects which are beneficial to the common man. He expressed his determination to free the country from hunger, unemployment and exploitation which has kept the country backward.

Addressing the ceremony, the Sindh chief minister said the provincial government has restored the law and order in the province. The defense minister, Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, apprised the prime minister of the problems being faced by the people of the area. The minister of state for communications, Jam Mashooq Ali, said the project will link Karachi to Peshawar through Jamshoro, Dadu, Larkana, Shikarpur, Kashmor, Rajanpur and Dera Ghazi Khan. The Japanese ambassador to Pakistan, Kunio Muraoka, said the Japanese Government would continue to provide assistance to Pakistan.

Later, the prime minister, while talking to newsmen at the Sukkur airport, said that Pakistan is not being pressurized for its nuclear program which is purely for peaceful purposes. He said Pakistan's nuclear program is meant to meet its growing energy requirements. The caretaker prime minister said the differences between Pakistan and India could be resolved only when the Kashmir dispute is settled on the basis of relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

Mir Balkh Sher Mazari said the Army has been called to supervise the forthcoming national elections scheduled

to be held on 14th July. However, he said, holding of the elections is basically the responsibility of the chief election commissioner. The prime minister said he would welcome any political party which wanted to join the caretaker setup to help ensure impartial elections and promotion of political alliances is not something unusual in politics. He said the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] is playing an important role in the caretaker cabinet.

JI Leader Opposes Army Role in Election

BK1205103393 Islamabad THE NATION in English
12 May 93 p 14

[Text] Multan-Amir of Jamaat-i-Islami, Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmed, has opposed PPP's [Pakistan People's Party] demand forthcoming election should be conducted by the Army. He has proposed that a joint meeting of all political parties should be summoned to evolve consensus among them over the issue of fair and free election and to frame a line of action to ensure impartial election process.

Addressing a news conference here on Tuesday, Qazi Hussain maintained that the Army should not be engaged in election process because it would affect its professional obligations and the political parties should unanimously formulate a line of action to remove possibility of rigging in the polls.

Commenting on Ms Benazir Bhutto's statement in which she had warned that any attempt to exclude her (Benazir Bhutto) and Mohammad Nawaz Sharif from power game would be disastrous for the democracy. The Jamaat Chief maintained that the statement of Benazir Bhutto on Tuesday itself had indicated that Ms Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif had the same political line and there was no difference in their policies. He said that the PML (Chattha Group) was a third power about which Ms Bhutto had warned that it should not be given basic role in power structure by neglecting PPP and PML (Nawaz Sharif Group).

He argued that existing situation demanded an honest and patriotic leadership to lead the country in the hours of crisis. He further said that his party has decided to provide such an honest leadership and a "front" had been constituted for the same purpose. He informed that a national convention and line of action would be announced. He also informed that a convention of 2000 religious scholars and leaders would be convened on May 17 in Lahore to deliberate how an alternate leadership could be provided. Criticising Nawaz Sharif, he alleged that his government could not have mobilised world opinion over Kashmir issue. He said that Nawaz Sharif and Ms Bhutto used to work under US's line and they did not have their own programme. He accused that the United States wanted to establish Indian hegemony in the region and that was the reason it had been pressurising Pakistan to roll back its nuclear programme. He urged to resist against US's pressure which, he contended was temporary as it itself had reached on the

verge of collapse. He claimed that the downfall of the United States would start within next two or three years as its economy was heading towards breakdown and family system had been collapsed there.

Court Bars Provocative Remarks From Sharif

BK1205145093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] In the Supreme Court today, the attorney general, Mr. Aziz A. Munshi, began his submissions to prove that president vaildly passed the dissolution order as a situation had arisen in which government at the federation could not be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. He said the president passed the order after full application of mind to the prevailing facts and circumstances, and after giving objective consideration to these facts. He said the grounds enumerated by the president in his 18th April order have a direct nexus with the provisions of the Constitution and each one of them establishes that the affairs of the federation could not be carried on in accordance with the Constitution. He further argued that if the president does not act despite the facts, circumstances, and the enormous material before him as set out in the order of dissolution, it will amount to omission to discharge constitutional obligations. The attorney general will continue his submissions on Saturday.

Earlier, Dr. Farooq Hasan, counsel for the ANP [Awami National Party] president, Mr. Mohammed Ajmal Khat-tak, concluded his arguments. His major argument was that instead of dissolving the National Assembly, the president should have used other options open to him under the Constitution.

The Supreme Court today directed the former prime minister, Mian Mohammed Nawaz Sharif, to restrain himself and refrain from making provocative statements during the pendency of his petition before the court. The counsel for the petitioner, Mr. Khalid Anwar, informed the court that he had already requested his client not to make such statements as the Supreme Court is already seized of the matter. The attorney general, Mr. Aziz A. Munshi, also submitted that the president is the symbol of the unity of the nation. He said the president of Pakistan is not just a figure head of state but the elected representative of the whole nation. The electoral college of the president comprises the four provincial assemblies and members of the parliament, who are the chosen representatives of the whole nation. Therefore, while making any reference to the office of the president, great restraint must be exercised by all concerned with regard to his dignity and constitutional obligations. The Supreme Court will now take up the hearing of the petition on Saturday.

U.S. Approach to Regional Security Welcomed

BK1205143293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] Pakistan has welcomed the even-handed approach toward regional security outlined in a recent U.S. statement in the Congress. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan is looking forward to productive talks with Mr. John Milott, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state, when he comes to Islamabad on Friday. The visit is designed to open discussion with Pakistan officials on regional security issue, including confidence-building measures, nonproliferation, and tension reduction in South Asia. Pakistan will particularly mention the Kashmir issue and gross human rights violations by India in occupied Kashmir, which are major sources of tension between Pakistan and India. Mr. Milott in his statement in the U.S. Congress has endorsed the need for a regional approach to deal with the issues of nuclear nonproliferation, confidence building, and tension reduction measures.

Sri Lanka

President Urges Holding Free, Fair Elections

BK1205115993 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 May 93

[Text] President D.B. Wijetunge said the provincial council elections will be held as scheduled on May 17 and called upon all concerned law enforcement authorities and election officials in particular to ensure free and fair elections.

In a statement released to the press, President Wijetunge said this is the time when party rivalries are high. This does not mean that law of the jungle should prevail. I have instructed the law enforcement authorities to ensure that no person, irrespective of his party affiliation, is permitted to engage in unlawful activities such as intimidation, threats of physical harm, and harassment of candidates and election workers. The president said he had reminded the law enforcement authorities that all citizens are equal in the eyes of the law, and warned that any violation of the prompt and fair application of the law would result in stern action against the offenders. The president described the role of the public servant as another vital factor in ensuring a free and fair election.

The 16-member team of foreign observers, now in Colombo to monitor the provincial council election, has assured the opposition that it would forward to the prime minister the proposals made by the opposition to ensure a free and fair election. However, the team told the opposition alliance that they had no authority to directly involve themselves in the conduct of the election.

International Observers Arrive

BK1105112893 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] A group of international observers, consisting of several eminent persons, will observe both the conduct of the polls and the count of the provincial council elections as well as other aspects which will enable to ensure free and fair elections. Twenty observers from eight countries have arrived and more are due tomorrow. The international observers group along with the commissioner of elections, Chandrananda de Silva, paid a courtesy call on President D.B. Wijetunge. The observers group will be in the country till the 22d of this month.

A secretariat is now functioning at Hotel Lanka Oberoi in Colombo to coordinate the work for the international observers. The observers will remain in all 17 Districts from tomorrow till the counting is over. During this period, representations could be made to the observers by private appointment and prior appointment through the returning officer or the assistant commissioner.

The international observers group will present its report to the government and will hold a news conference before they leave on the 22d. The commissioner of elections has already briefed the observers on all aspects pertaining to the elections. Campaigning for elections will terminate by midnight on Friday, the 14th.

New Prime Minister Wickremasinghe Profiled

BK0805082893 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0705 GMT 8 May 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 8 (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lanka's new Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe is possibly the youngest prime minister in the world? Mr. Wickremasinghe who became the country's tenth prime minister, since independence was granted by Britain in 1948, comes from a very illustrious and talented family. His paternal grandfather C.E.L. Wickremasinghe was one of the first to be appointed as a civil servant under British colonial rule, while his maternal grandfather was the newspaper giant D.R. Wijewardena who founded the Lake House Group of Newspapers. The new prime minister's father, Esmond Wickremasinghe, was a man of great brilliance and a leading figure in world journalistic circles. He was the managing director of Lake House Group of Newspapers and the founder chairman of Sri Lanka's national news agency 'LANKAPUVATH'. Esmond Wickremasinghe was also political advisor to President J.R. Jayewardene. Prime minister's mother Mrs. Esmond Wickremasinghe was also a working director of the Lake House Group of Newspapers.

Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe entered national politics in 1977, at the age of 28, as deputy minister of foreign affairs and he soon rose to cabinet rank becoming minister of youth affairs. To this was added the very

responsible portfolio of education. As Mr. Wickremasinghe grew in political and intellectual stature and displayed rare ability in administration, organisation and harnessing of human resources, his portfolio was extended by President Jayewardene to manpower and mobilisation as well. Appointed leader of the house and the minister of science and technology by President Premadasa, Mr. Wickremasinghe has shown dexterous maturity in leading government benches in the thrust and parry of parliamentary debate.

Minister on 'Steady' Foreign Policy Course

BK1305094493 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0820 GMT 13 May 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 13 (LANKAPUVATH)—Foreign Minister Harold Herat, Wednesday reiterated that the foreign policy of Sri Lanka would continue along the steady course it had followed since January, 1989.

The minister said he was prompted to issue a brief statement in this regard, following the sad loss of President Ranasinghe Premadasa, through a brutal assassination and the assumption of the office to the executive presidency of Sri Lanka by Prime Minister D. B. Wijetunge.

Mr. Herat said Sri Lanka had played a significant role in international and regional affairs and "we steadfastly reaffirm our adherence to our international commitments and to our obligations as a responsible member of the international community".

The minister also made the following points:

The 1988 manifesto of the government, which provides our policy framework, pledged the continuance of a foreign policy which has now become an effective instrument for the realisation of Sri Lanka's national interests in the political, economic, social, cultural and other fields. This pledge remains valid and we will pursue an independent foreign policy resolutely opposed to all forms of foreign subjugation while protecting and promoting the sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and freedom of Sri Lanka.

We firmly uphold the universal validity of the principle of non-interference in the internal and external affairs of states. The government will ensure that our national security and independence are in no way subverted or threatened.

Athulathmudali's Widow Enters Politics

BK1305082093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0654 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 13 (AFP)—The widow of slain opposition leader Lalith Athulathmudali on Thursday announced her entry into politics ahead of Sri Lanka's crucial regional polls.

Srimani Athulathmudali told reporters here that her decision followed "innumerable requests" from supporters of her husbands' Democratic United National Front (DUNF) to fill the vacuum created by his April 23 assassination.

"My deep reluctance to play a public role has been overcome by the enormous sacrifices made by members of the DUNF, the strength of their convictions, their hopes and aspirations. It is their determination to realize Lalith's vision for a better Sri Lanka that has convinced me of my duty to take this step... We can begin to restore hope, peace and stability to our land from the 17th of May," she said.

The newly-formed DUNF, mostly made up of defectors from the ruling United National Party (UNP), has emerged as a major threat to the government in Monday's elections to seven out of eight provincial councils.

Athulathmudali, a former national security minister, was assassinated when he was addressing an election meeting here. The DUNF has blamed the government for the murder but police have accused Tamil Tiger rebels. The Tiger guerrillas have denied any involvement.

Athulathmudali said that she would not come on stage and campaign but would provide a "figure-head" leadership to the party in her husbands' Western Province electorate which covers the capital Colombo.

Fears for her security and that of her 11-year-old daughter Serela has forced her to drop the idea of appearing on election platforms, party officials said.

"I am worried. I have to be worried," Athulathmudali said about her security but added that despite being unable to come on stage she would do "everything else possible for the victory of the DUNF."

Although she had not for the moment thought about a long-term foray into politics she had decided to enter the election campaign at this stage because she felt it was not correct to let down her husband's supporters.

DUNF spokesman Wickrema Weerasooriya said that he was confident of the party capturing power at the elections and promised proper investigations into the slaying of both Athulathmudali and president Ranasinghe Premadasa. Premadasa was blown to pieces by a suspected Tiger suicide-bomber eight days after Athulathmudali was killed. The president's slaying has led to wide-spread speculation that his widow Hema too would enter politics.

"Knowing her (Hema), if she had made up her mind, nothing can stop her," said Srimani Athulathmudali.

Sri Lanka produced the first woman premier when Sirima Bandaranaike stepped into the shoes of her prime minister husband Solomon Bandaranaike who was assassinated in September 1959.

Her daughter Chandrika also became a widow when a lone gunman shot dead her filmstar-turned-politician husband Vijaya Kumaratunga in February 1988. Chandrika is contesting the May 17 polls to become the chief minister for the western province.

Tamil Parties Support Ethnic Crisis Resolution

BK0905113693 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Tamil political parties have extended their greetings to the newly elected president, D.B. Wijetunge, and pledged their support to find a lasting solution to establish peace and democracy in the north and the east [sentence as heard]. The vice president of the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam, PLOTE, Karuvai A. Srikanthasami, in his message said that his party was optimistic that the wealth of experience the new president possessed as a senior parliamentarian would definitely help him to reach a consensus to the ethnic problem. The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, EPRLF, general secretary and the Jaffna district parliamentarian, Suresh K. Premachandran, said that the ethnic problem of Sri Lanka remained the primary issue of the country to be resolved. The new president's concern over the ethnic crisis was appreciated by the party. The political secretary of the Eelam People's Democratic Party, EPDP, Mr. N. Ramaiah, said that parliament has shown integrity and credibility in safeguarding the democratic system by unanimously electing Mr. D.B. Wijetunge as the new president of Sri Lanka.

Industrial Export Earnings 'Rising Sharply'

BK0805111893 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Earnings from industrial exports are rising sharply. The earnings amounted to 75,776 million rupees last year alone. The figure is a 37 percent increase on the previous year's earnings. Textile and garment export brings in the most revenue growth in the sector exceeding 45 percent. The Central Bank report said there has been a 32 percent increase in the revenue earned by items such as diamonds, food and beverages, tobacco, chemical products, and leather and rubber products.